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ISAACS, HAROLD R. REPORT

201 No. 18446

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C-O-N-F-I SECRET N-T-I-A-L
When Filled In

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9 January 1975
(date)

# Review of 201 File on U.S. Citizen

In accordance with the DDO's notice of 9 December 1974, I have reviewed the 201 file on ISAACS (surname) (201 number indicated below), and have determined that it can most accurately be categorized as indicated below:

- [ ] should be closed.
- [ ] witting collaborator. OI Code A1.
- [ ] potential witting collaborator; date opened ________ OI Code A2.
- [ ] former witting collaborator (relationship terminated). OI Code A3.
- [ ] potential witting collaborator never contacted (security reasons, derogatory information). OI Code A4.
- [X] counterintelligence case (i.e., involving a foreign intelligence or security service). OI Code A5.
- [ ] all others. OI Code A6.

Signed Barbara Booth (name) CH/FCCI (title) (component)

This assignment of category has been entered into STAR.

Signed KAM (initials) 24 JAN 1975 (date) 197__

This document is a permanent part of this file.

201-18496

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XAAZ-35686

4 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Former Records of Ray Murphy

1. The attached documents are part of a large collection of records held by Ray Murphy during his tenure as an official of the Department of State. He transferred all of his records to CIA upon his retirement in the mid-1960's. The documents of that collection which did not meet the retention criteria of the DDO or the Office of Security were destroyed. While those which were of utility have been retained and accessioned as appropriate to the DDO records system.

2. The attached records concern Harold ISAACS who is the subject of 201-0018446 and should be classified to that file.

M. Paul Hartman

M. Paul Hartman
C/CIRA/RS

Attachment

4 Oct 74
201-18446

RECORD COPY

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SECRET

E2 IMPDET
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Copy: AR:SS
Class:

9: 1 - Isaacs, Harold

SOURCE: NEW MASSES, New York City,
October 22, 1936 - Page 12

EUROPE'S CRISIS: JAPAN PREPARES

By Hansu Chan

... There are numerous American journalists of different political color and shades of opinion who are "cooperating" in this way with Japanese imperialism, but whoever has followed the writings of Harold Isaacs, Alexander Buchman, Frank Glass and Wilbur Burton in The China Press, The China Weekly Review, Asia, Pacific Affairs, New International, etc., realizes that these American Trotskyist journalists are the most vicious and most dangerous of the whole lot of reactionary journalists.

Hiding behind a barrage of Marxist phraseology (which none of them has yet learned to manipulate with facility), these people are energetically conducting a campaign of lies against the Communist International, the Chinese Communist Party, the Soviet Union, the Chinese Soviets and the Chinese Red Army, a campaign which aims to undermine the confidence of the outside world in the Chinese Soviet movement and the Red Army.

...

RECORD COPY

Harold Isaacs
201-18446

H/W ATT ci To XAA2-35686

201-18446

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SUR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES FILES

Date ..Oct. 23. 1957

SOURCE: DAILY WORKER

File No. ..9100.... Isaacs

X 4202 China

# TROTZKYITE BOOK MOURNS OVER CHINESE REVOLUTION

THE TRAGEDY OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION. By Harold D. Issacs. Stanford University Press. 352 pp. $5.

By ROBERT FRIEDMAN

The presses are spewing forth anti-Chinese books these days at a pace which bids to match the anti-Soviet torrent. All the 'old China hands' who served Western imperialism as banker, soldier, spy, or whatever in the Orient are now busy at the typewriter, engaged in profitable vilification of 450,000,000 people because they decided to take their fate in their own hands and build for themselves.

• • •

One book which deserves, even under the cynical and opportunist reign of capitalism, some special prize for adaptability is Harold D. Isaacs' "Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution."

Published first in 1938 as an avowedly Trotskyite tract (complete with introduction by Trotsky) calling the defeat of the Chinese workers in 1927 a "betrayal" by Stalin and the Chinese Communists, the same book emerges now, refurbished, to mourn the victory of the very same Chinese workers a generation later!

• • •

Filled with the murky intricacies of devious Trotskyite polemics, Isaacs book has been reissued, partly to cash in on the hate-China racket, and partly because any stick is useful to Big Business against the liberation-bound masses.

Isaacs now says he no longer loves Trotsky, whose introduction has been dropped as a liability. Instead, he is an open defender of imperialist intervention against the people of the Far East.

But typical of his Trotskyite weaseling is Isaacs' attack on the Chinese Communists of the 1920's, first because they supported Chiang Kai-shek despite the fact that he was to become the butcher of the Chinese revolution, and second because they allegedly cringed before Chiang when he turned on the workers in 1927.

• • •

This nonsense, which would rule out every political alliance in history on the chance that today's ally might be tomorrow's enemy, is ironic in view of the fact that Chiang sits today on Taiwan, a discredited gangster save only in the eyes of Isaacs' political mentors.

Meanwhile, the Chinese people will go about their business building socialism, unconcerned by Isaacs' tears for the tragedy of 1927 or 1951.

RECORD [illegible]

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Enclosure No. 1
To Des tch No. 3317

KEM

1100-Isaacs, Harold & 1/30/35

1 Ta Yong Yi Ping Hutung
Peiping, China.
Oct. 5, 1934.

Mr. T. A. Bisson
136 Claremont Avenue
Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I have seen the correspondence exchanged between Mr. Glass and yourself regarding the contributions you collected for the China Forum. A draft for the sum in full will be sent to you this week.

I do not know in the name of whom or what Miss Smedley speaks of the China Forum. Since she was not in China at the time the Forum suspended, nor has she corresponded with me on the subject, I consider it necessary to place before you and the other contributors an account of the circumstances in which the Forum ceased publication. Since you apparently gathered the contributors together in a meeting to hear what Miss Smedley had to say, I would appreciate it deeply if you would gather them once more to hear my account. The enclosed is a copy of a letter sent by me last May to the Chinese Communist Party. It has been published in China in a Chinese translation and copies have been sent abroad but has not been published in English as far as I know. I do not know the names of the people who were good enough to contribute to the Forum but their interest in the matter warrants placing before them the story of what happened to the magazine. I trust, out of simple fairness to me, you will be good enough to give them this opportunity.

I greatly regret any inconvenience or embarrassment to which you have been put in this matter. I do hope, however, that my letter will enlighten you and your friends and enable you to appreciate the difficulties which have arisen. I know of no project to revive the China Forum at the present time. Should such occur, the resultant publication would be of a considerably different character from the one I edited, as will be obvious from the facts given in my letter to the C. P. I think people who are interested in supporting the revolutionary movement here should know these facts.

Once again, I appreciate all the trouble you have gone to in this matter.

Did you ever, incidentally, receive the article "Fascism in China" and the newsletter which I mailed to July 13 last?

Yours sincerely,

encl. (Harold R. Isaacs)

(Copied by RD)

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811 50 34 / China / Socialist Pub. Co. / 58

H/A ATT 13 TO XAA2-35536

201-18446

COPY

**Letter of H. R. Isaacs to the C.C.P. concerning the China Forum**

To the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party:

The two-year period of my extra-organizational collaboration with the Chinese Communist Party has come to an end and the China Forum which I founded and edited during that time has been forced to suspend publication. In the interest of our whole movement as well as in my personal interest, I consider it necessary to record here and publish the history of the China Forum and the circumstances of its suspension. You refused me the opportunity to lay the matter before the membership of the party even when I offered to do so in your own organs and not through the columns of the Forum. When, wrongly, I permitted the Forum to go down in silence, you turned around and in your organs and near organs in China and abroad you proceeded with the usual slanders of "betrayer" and "counter-revolutionary". In so doing you didn't have the courage or the simple honesty to state that you presented the China Forum with an ultimatum and forced its suspension because in reply its editor raised questions which are being placed before the whole movement today by the International Left Opposition. Nor did you state that you deliberately smashed the Forum for this reason despite my repeated and extended offers to continue publication as before on a straight anti-Kuomintang, anti-imperialist basis, leaving these various problems to be thrashed out first privately among ourselves. In other words, you deliberately forced suspension of the China Forum despite the fact, on your own admission, that its loss was a serious blow to the revolutionary movement in China, that it meant the disappearance of an organ which for two years you had considered an extremely valuable instrument in the hands of the movement. Here, as in the broader issues which led to our differences, your blind adherence to false policies was once more demonstrative of your readiness to place your factional interests above the interests of the Chinese Revolution.

In going back over the history of the Forum, I think the vicious character of your action becomes even more evident when I start with the fact that from beginning to end I functioned not as a member of the party but as a willing sympathizer who was prepared to throw all his energies into a job he saw he could do - edit and publish an organ in China which could help mobilize the forces of this country for struggle against the Kuomintang and the imperialists by exposing the regime of terror and privation which they have in common imposed upon the masses of the Chinese people. Permit me to recall at this point that I never accepted any personal remuneration for time or labor. You gave the Forum financial aid but I never received a dollar from you that was not put into the paper. I refused your offers of compensation and earned my living elsewhere. Your only claim on me was my full-hearted loyalty to the Communist ideal and

our

our common dedication to the struggle against a regime of hate and misery and oppression. In the end you forfeited this claim by ceasing any longer to be in my eyes honest or effective leaders of this struggle.

Although you helped the Forum financially, the part you played in building it up from the day it started in January, 1932, to the day of its last appearance in January 1934, was insignificant. My repeated requests for cooperation in matters of circulation and material for publication went largely unsatisfied throughout that time. You never supplied me with the reports I so frequently and urgently sought, particularly on trade unions, strike struggles, the Red Armies, the Red districts, etc. Everything the Forum did and became was the fruit of the work of a tiny group of devoted collaborators (the most important of whom had no connection with you whatever) and myself who had to depend almost entirely on our own resources for everything we did and published. At every crisis in the Forum's existence, when it was banned by the French authorities in Shanghai at the very outset; when it was hounded and persecuted by the American and Chinese authorities in the summer of 1933, when through British police pressure it was thrown out of every available printing ship in the city; when the pseudo-Fascist Blue Shirts again and again threatened the printing plant which I built up partially through personally contracted loans -- it was invariably through my own initiative, with the help of the little Forum staff, that we pulled ourselves up by the bootstraps every time and carried on to a point in January this year where the Forum was flourishing and growing daily in circulation, prestige, and influence despite the many formidable obstacles in its way. The formation of the China Forum Readers Association, which in the brief space of three months spread to eleven cities in five provinces, developing into a mighty potential weapon for the revolutionary movement, was the product of spontaneous action on the part of the Forum's readers, later sponsored and led by the paper itself. All these were the Forum's own achievements, not yours. By your arbitrary and criminal action you shattered them in the full stride of their growth. Because to my bitter disappointment I had not nor could I secure the resources to carry on myself - owing largely to the difficult conditions of work and the impossibility of getting revenue from the paper itself - all that had been achieved and was to be achieved was ground into the dust.

II.

From almost the very beginning of my active work - which I date from the time I began reporting events in China in a Communist way - a number of questions presented themselves to me in increasingly forcible form. These arose originally from my discovery of the gross distortions and exaggerations which I found to be characteristic of Communist propaganda in China and abroad. I define propaganda as the skilful, clear, accurate and wholly truthful reporting of the facts linked to an incisive,

purposive

purposive interpretation and a plan of action for dealing with the facts in a revolutionary way. I learned this from the life and work of Lenin and his Bolshevik comrades who taught us that the truth comes from the masses themselves and that only disaster can result from telling them lies. I have never learned to the contrary that it was my revolutionary duty to work in any other way although I soon found that the present day Communist Party press makes a practice of distinguishing between propaganda and truth.

Examples of exaggeration and distortion most striking to me were naturally those which applied to China, because here I could check allegations with known facts. I first wrote these down to the ignorance or incapacity of individuals. I felt that Communist editors abroad would publish accurate facts about China if they could get them. Accordingly with a friend I tried to set up an independent mail news service and sent weekly bulletins to papers all over the world giving brief, sharp, factual accounts of what was going on. This was in the fall of 1931 after my return from the area of the great Central China floods of that summer. I scarcely understood then why this service failed to secure any response from the Communist press abroad. After about three months I had to suspend it for lack of support. It simply didn't get published except in a few organs which were not official Communist Party papers, including the New York Militant.

It wasn't long before I began to perceive, with a deeper study of international events and the history of the Chinese Revolution, that a consistent thread ran through the distortions and exaggerations which I found not only in brief casual reports of current events but in the solemn pronunciamentoes made by delegates before plenums of the E.C.C.I. I discovered that these departures from the truth were made necessary by the official premise that ever since the catastrophe of 1927 a mighty, upsurging revolutionary movement has been marching forward in China to the very brink of seizure of power under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. I discovered that these exaggerations were necessary because the premise was false and along with it all the basic tenets of the policies being pursued by the Communist International and the Communist Party in China. I cannot begin here to give a summary of some of these distortions (which I verbally cited to you by the dozen) ranging from particular incidents (the wilfully false picture given of the cotton mill strike in Shanghai in January, 1932, even to the point of transposing it to February to heighten the impression given of the workers' role in the Shanghai war) to high flown generalisations like the statement recently made before the Plenum of the E.C.C.I. that the C.C.P. has won over the majority of the Chinese working class and the peasantry.

In denying the factual truth of this premise, whence flows the whole policy of the Communist Party in China, I deprecate not a whit the magnificent militancy and courage of Chinese workers, striking again and again and fighting

against

against terrific odds in defense of their very lives; nor the heroic struggles waged by peasants all over the country; nor the fight of the Red Armies against the Kuomintang, I merely respect the cold, indisputable fact that these struggles are defensive, not offensive, that they are isolated, desperate and unorganized. With very few exceptions - a few small strikes here and there and the larger exception of the Red Army - they are without organized revolutionary leadership. Moreover the development of this leadership, the task of the C.P., is proceeding at a tragically retarded pace owing to the false policies and inept tactics of the party.

In denying the presence of a mighty revolutionary upsurge (i.e., a vast, organized march toward the seizure of power) I respect facts made still clearer perhaps when compared to the facts and figures of the monster mass movements of the 1925-27 period. The tragic errors of the Communist leadership in 1927 were primarily responsible for the decapitation of that great movement and because no lessons have been drawn from those events to this very day, these errors, monstrously accumulated, are still responsible for the tragedies of today. But for the purpose of our comparison here, let us for example take the single fact that in 1926 in Greater Shanghai there were 257 strikes. In 1932 there were 82. Let us remember that on the eve of the workers' seizure of power in Shanghai in March, 1927, there were more than 800,000 workers, handicraftsmen and petty traders out on the streets fighting with arms in hands for demands of a far-reaching political character. A close check for the entire country in the latter half of 1933 showed me that less than one-thirtieth of that number were engaged in strikes and other disputes during any given month and that almost invariably the demands were defensive demands against wage cuts and lockouts. Moreover, the lack of cohesive leadership - often in departments of the same factory or in one or more of a group of factories - or even sometimes lack of even the most elementary organization - has in almost every case led to deadening failure and relatively easy betrayal by the yellow "labor leaders" and "mediators" of the Kuomintang. In 1925 the shooting of thirteen students by British police in Shanghai was the touch-off for a general strike which paralyzed the city and which was seconded by vast sympathy strikes which broke like a series of tidal waves over the entire country. In January, 1932, when the Japanese imperialists used the Shanghai International Settlement as a base for operations which cost the lives of tens of thousands of Chinese, not a single strike interrupted the normal course of the public or other services in that settlement. In the factories there were no strikes but a large scale lockout to which the overwhelming majority of Shanghai's workers submitted without protest.

The dogged, persistent struggle carried on by small sections of the rank and file workers in isolated instances in recent years is tribute to the magnificent fibre of

Chinese

Chinese workers. It is not evidence that a revolutionary seizure of power is on the order of the day. It is evidence, along with the heroic sacrifices of thousands who have lost lives and liberty in Chinese revolutionary struggle during the last seven years of Kuomintang reaction, that it is possible to fight the monstrous white terror which Chinese Communists frequently cite as a reason for the insufficiency of their work. Yet it is largely because this terror has not been fought effectively that the Kuomintang regime, despite the fact that it is rotting and crumbling, can still keep the lid down on the boiling, simmering hatred of the people it rules. Unless the martyrdom of thousands of China's finest workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals is to be in vain, we must turn resolutely away from the folly of calling to insurrection when what is needed is painstaking education, organization and the sponsorship of day-to-day struggles of the masses for democratic demands, the slow building up of a party and mass organizations and a movement which will be able to command the forces capable of carrying out an insurrection.

In the case of the widespread but isolated and individual cases of peasant uprisings, and this includes the Red Armies in Kiangsi, these struggles await the leadership of a strong working class movement before they can have a successful issue. The Red Armies in their restricted and surrounded areas and with their meagre resources have fought heroically against the Kuomintang attacks upon them. But until the Kuomintang is shaken from its bulwarks in the imperialist controlled working class centres, their prospect of revolutionary triumph remains necessarily dim. No revolutionary purpose is served by taking refuge in the fiction that these armies have proletarian leadership because individual workers, undoubtedly leaders of superior quality and courage, have been torn from their factories and their fellow-workers and sent down to occupy key positions in the Red Army districts and in the Red Armies themselves. Indeed, this common practice of extracting the most conscious and progressive working class elements from their working class environment and sending them down to the Red districts is a good index to the criminal transposition of emphasis which has helped paralyze the working class movement in the cities. If the White Terror doesn't carry off the workers' leaders as they arise, the C.P. does and has done so in hundreds of cases. This helps in no small part to explain why it has also been impossible to mobilize a genuine mass anti-Japanese movement in the fact of military aggression and why the White Terror of the Kuomintang has succeeded, by filling mass graves and innumerable prisons with the martyred dead and living, in downing the anti-imperialist movement or efforts toward the organization of such a movement and paving the way for the ever increasing encroachments of the imperialists. The party has not yet gripped and directed the deep and bitter and often inarticulate hatred of the masses of the people for their oppressors and this includes large sections of the lower petty bourgeoisie who could be won by successful mass pressure from below. This is because the

Party

Party has failed to translate the realities of everyday events into its program and tactics.

I cannot here go into the many-faceted problems and issues which flow from these facts with regard to the policies and tactics of the Chinese revolutionary movement. Nor extending to the international scene need I go into the terrific effects of the German catastrophe nor the storm of questions which has been directed at the C.I. leadership whose responsibility in the disaster has become nakedly clear to unnumbered Communists and Communist sympathizers the world over. Nor into the whole set of implications which arise from the policies of the C.I., with particular reference to the late developments in Soviet foreign policy, the Litvinov-Roosevelt agreement, the forthcoming mooted entrance of the U.S.S.R. into the League of Nations and in a smaller but equally characteristic way, the forthcoming association of the U.S.S.R. with the Institute of Pacific Relations which hopes to hold its next talkfest in Moscow. These problems, with their many specific links to the Chinese questions, were the basic questions over which I soon began to take issue with the official views of the Party and the International.

III.

But precisely because at all costs I desired to carry on the Forum's open struggle against the common enemy - against the Kuomintang and the imperialists - I sedulously avoided bringing these issues into the columns of the paper, increasingly against my better judgment. I leaned over far backward in this respect. This expressed itself in many of the current issues with which we had to deal.

I ask you to recall the whole uphill fight which the Forum waged on behalf of Paul and Gertrud Ruegg in the spring and summer of 1932 during which time I repeatedly warned against the emphasis which was being placed on the "legal" aspects of the case and the "negotiations" with the Kuomintang to the detriment of mass pressure and the capitalization of the case for political purposes. You paid lip service to the need for mass pressure - particularly here in China - but in fact the "legalities" and futile negotiations remained the major pillars of the defense. Until in the very end I finally rebelled, I wasn't even permitted to give Ruegg his honourable and rightful title - secretary of the Pan Pacific Trade Union Secretariat. Yet, although I felt the struggle for the Rueggs was being seriously handicapped by the tactics being pursued, I carried on the fight with all the energy at my command and you will recall that it was I who created the local defense committee and was chiefly responsible for the widespread press propaganda and the considerable sympathy which we aroused. Yet the strictly non-political attitude which Ruegg was forced to assume at the trial (in contrast to the highly political attitude of his prosecutors) was in my opinion one of the major reasons

for

for the fate to which he and his wife were condemned.

I ask you to recall the whole period of the organization and activities of the China-League for Civil Rights, from December, 1932, to June, 1933, in which I took an active part. I gave full play to this hybrid League and its work without once publishing the basic criticisms which I often voiced to you and which in the end were wholly confirmed by what happened after the Kuomintang murdered Yang Chien in June that year.

I ask you to recall the views I set forth in August and September, 1933, on the subject of the "anti-War Congress" which at your specific request I did not publish. Instead, to my regret, I published the foul rot of Marley & Co., without freely giving play to the true facts about that farcical junket which had convinced me that the policies which gave it birth do not one single whit advance the international struggle against imperialist war.

On one occasion - and this at least I can take comfort in - I passively resisted when you requested me to write and publish a slanderous attack on Chen-Tu-hsiu when he was condemned to 13 years imprisonment by the Kuomintang. Your request was specific. I was not to deal with the issues which had brought Chen Tu-hsiu from being the leader of the C.P. in 1927 to being leader of the Chinese Opposition in 1933. I was only to string together a vile series of labels in an effort to explain why the Kuomintang even imprisoned the leader of the Left Opposition. As you know, that attack was never written or published.

Again in December, 1933, upon my return from Fukien, you specifically demanded that I set aside the results of my own personal investigations in Foochow in order to write on your behalf (but over my signature!) an utterly baseless and slanderous attack on the Left Opposition. You will recall that you charged at that time that the "Trotskyists" were prominently identified with the new government set up in Fukien by Chen Ming-shu and Tsai Ting-kai. You lumped the Left Opposition with the Third Party and the so-called Social Democrats among the petty bourgeois satellites of the Fukien militarists. It was as much to satisfy myself on this very point as to perform a mission for you that I went down to Foochow and spent two weeks there and learned through direct contact with dozens of people prominently concerned that the Left Opposition were stoutly and clearly opposed to the Foochow regime. I haven't place here to discuss the relations of the C.P. to the short-lived Fukien Government or the character of the "negotiations" which were going on down there. The important thing here is that on my return you demanded that I write slanders which flew in the face of everything I myself had learned. It is interesting, as a sidelight on your methods in factional strife as you conceive it, that your representative in Foochow sent back a report, through me, ironically enough, that one of the most prominent of the youthful pseudo-radicals in Foochow, Wu

Chi-yuen

Chi-yuen to be exact, was a leading "Trotskyist". It so happened that I had met and had several lengthy interviews with Wu and by the time I left Foochow I understood his position and his personality exceedingly well. He was as much a Trotskyist as Mei Lan-fang is! Yet you actually demanded that I ignore my own knowledge of the man and in my article on Fukien set him down as a "Trotskyist". I was faced on the one hand by your demands that I write falsehoods to suit your policies and on the other by my deep desire to set forth the actual facts about the Opposition's attitude towards the Fukien regime. But once more, to preserve the shreds of our relationship, I drove a middle course and did neither, leaving the whole question out of my article.

Despite the facts that these issues weighed more and more heavily upon me, despite the fact that events in China and abroad were pressing themselves more and more imperatively on the concerns of every sincere revolutionary, I still tried to keep the Forum balanced on its ribbon-like path, concentrating on the anti-Kuomintang, anti-imperialist struggle, and in so doing fulfilling at least a partial function as a revolutionary organ. I deeply felt, however, that I was betraying my readers by avoiding these issues. How could I write of Germany and avoid all the implications of that disaster? How could I write of America's recognition of the U.S.S.R. and still fail to say that the Communist International had virtually been murdered at Washington? How could I warn against the dangers of imperialist intervention in the U.S.S.R. and still not point out that Soviet foreign policy was in fact daily heightening the danger of such intervention? Yet I somehow did so and sought in whatever way possible to retain some basis for our continued collaboration.

## IV.

Nevertheless, abruptly in January of this year you forced an ultimatum upon me and subsequently forced the break in our relationship because I could not and would not, at your demand, devote the China Forum to policies which I could not and do not believe compatible with the interests of the Chinese Revolution and the international proletarian revolution. I could not, at your demand, set aside the convictions to which I had literally been driven by the stinging lash of catastrophic events in China, Germany and the world over. Particularly my deep interest in Chinese events during the last three years made it impossible for me, finally, to give active support to policies and tactics whose disastrous effects were being a thousandfold confirmed for me by the tragic events of every swiftly-passing day. I could not ignore questions which strike at the roots of our work and the whole structure of our hopes for a revolutionary future.

Despite the fact that these questions are rocking the entire International today, you denied my right to

raise

raise them in print. You demanded more. You demanded that I attack anybody who did so - primarily the people you call "counter-revolutionary Trotskyists" - the only people who are facing these problems today in a fearless, revolutionary way. You demanded that the China Forum become a stereotype for the policies and vulgar factional slanders which I could neither then nor now be party to. In reply to my questions on China you simply quoted back to me the lies and half-lies I've been so used to reading in Inprecorr. You even declared: "For propaganda purposes a certain amount of exaggeration is necessary..." and went on amazingly to say: "but we know the true facts and we base our policies on them, not on these exaggerations!" A new slant on modern-day C.I. tactics! Facts, you said, are curious things. They have to be turned around and around and around and examined closely until their true nature becomes apparent. The trouble is you turn them so far and so quickly that they turn into something like a dizzily turning top of fancy - or at best wish - fulfilling misrepresentations.

To my questions on Germany you quoted Heckert, Piatnitsky, and the E.C.C.I.'s famour resolution declaring that the collapse of the German party and the slaughter of the German workers were based on the past, present and future correct policies of the C.P.G.! You declared I had no right to offer critical comment on the dangerously opportunistic foreign and domestic policies of the U.S.S.R., most notably on the entry of the U.S.S.R. on a straight nationalist basis into the disgusting corridors of imperialist intrigue. To the contrary, I was to lovingly fawningly fondle and hail the policies which have meant disaster in China, Germany and elsewhere and are rapidly leading the U.S.S.R. into the vacuum of nationalist isolation from the world wide proletarian movement. This I was to do, to begin with, by publishing Stalin's face on the front page and columns of the customary panegyrics to his infallibility. Above all and before all, I was to take up cudgels against "counter-revolutionary Trotskyism". That was to be the main point of my reformation - to raise no questions myself and slander anybody else who did so.

In reply to your demand that I submit to an editorial board in order that these editorial policies should be effectively put into practice, I offered (1) to continue publication strictly as before, meanwhile arguing out my differences with you in discussions on the side; (2) to throw the columns of the Forum open to a general discussion of all basic revolutionary question, with free play to unorthodox as well as orthodox views. If your views were correct, I argued, it would be a distinct advantage to you to have such an opportunity to display their brilliance alongside the puny efforts of your critics; (3) to publish orthodox news and views but to reserve for myself the right to comment and criticise.

These repeated offers you repeatedly refused. You offered to discuss these questions with me verbally __if__ in

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the meanwhile I throw the Forum open to your editorial board. My other proposals were unthinkable! Give the Forum's readers a chance to hear "counter-revolutionary" viewpoints? Never that! I could only display my revolutionary purity by acceding to your demands. We would talk things over until Spring, then if all went well (i.e., if I showed a satisfactory adaptability to your viewpoint) I could pack up for an educational trip to the Soviet Union where I would certainly become convinced of the error of my ways. In other words you wanted my signature on a promissory note with the amount left blank for you to fill in. You put this in the form of an ultimatum and you told me that if I did anything but accept I would forthwith enter the camp of the "counter-revolution".

I had to refuse these terms. I had to refuse to lend myself to a slanderous and baseless struggle against the International Left Opposition. I had to refuse to lend space to the nauseatingly fawning praise of Stalin and uncritical reception of Stalinist policies which characterise the Communist Party press the world over. I had to refuse to take shelter in the cold and draughty empty spaces which stretch behind the impressive facade and early tradition of the Communist International. I would like to go to the Soviet Union for a vist someday - but I had to refuse your offer on your terms. I had to refuse, in short, to become a hack prostitute in the name of the Revolution.

In the end, too, I had to refuse to turn over to you the printing plant I had built up with so much pain and struggle because I considered it not your property but the property of the working class movement. Because I could not carry on the Forum myself, for lack of financial resources and because of heavy debts contracted, I disposed of the plant and turned every farthing of the proceeds over to where I now consider the true interests of our movement lie. It was with a deep and abiding bitterness that I had considered comrades, when for two years it had fought off all its many enemies on the outside.

Yet with it came the realization that we have to build anew over the ruins you have wrought. The revolution and the building of our future moves forward and when we trample down the defenses of our enemies we shall crush underfoot everything and everybody that stands in our way. No sycophantic, blind allegiance to a name, an empty facade, a torn and shredded prestige can lead us forward. Only unswerving fidelity to our goal and active struggle towards this end with the weapons of a correct and tested political line will lift us from defeat to ultimate victory. To this struggle I shall continue to dedicate all my energies.

Harold R. Isaacs.

Peiping, China
May 20, 1934.

(Copied by RD)

201-13411

14-00000

FOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES FILES

SOURCE: DAILY WORKER

Date: July 6, 1950

File No. 9100 Isaacs

# POST WRITER ADMITS ALL KOREA OPPOSES INVASION

The Korean people are united behind the Liberation Armies from the North and are hostile to the American troops sent there by Truman's interventionist order, the New York Post's Far East expert, Harold R. Isaacs, admitted yesterday.

Isaacs' article gave the lie to the Post's own editorial line of support to the police-state regime of Syngman Rhee and the Truman attack on Korea as an act to defend "democracy."

Isaacs declared that the U. S. has "much more reason to count on general Korean hostility than on heroic support." He admitted that "South Korean civilians have been infinitely harder hit by the American action so far" than by their fellow-Koreans from the north.

The South Korean government was an "unpopular one in the election held only four weeks ago," Isaacs said, "the regime of President Syngman Rhee was decisively repudiated."

Isaacs declared that the guerilla movements in South Korea "could have operated only with a considerable measure of popular support," and he acknowledged the "intense desire of all Koreans for reunification of their dismembered country."

To top this story, bristling with exposure of the imperialist nature of the Truman attack on Korea, and with evidence of the Korean people's awareness of their real enemy, the Post concocted the dishonest headline: "S. Koreans Don't Know Why Help Has Come."

(In late editions the Post indicated its own awareness of the phoniness of this headline by dropping it. The new one complained: "Weak S. Korean Regime Hampers GIs at Front.")

But Isaacs made clear that "if in China during the Japanese war the Americans had a friendly population on their side, this is by no means the case now in Korea."

He concludes: "Even if the war remains localized, even a victory won in due course will be a temporary one, and such a victory will not be easily won."

RECORD COPY

H/W ATT 05 TO 35316

201-15446

7100 - Isaacs, Harold

December 2, 1932.

No. 1480.
SECRET:

# M E M O R A N D U M.

With reference to R.A. memorandum No. 1305 of December 4, 1931, regarding Harold ISAACS and his connection with Hilaire NOULENS, it has just been learned that one Viola ROBINSON arrived in Shanghai on August 28, 1932, by the C.P.R. s.s. EMPRESS OF ASIA. On August 29, Miss ROBINSON, together with Harold ISAACS of the CHINA FORUM, gave notice to the United States Consulate General of their intended marriage, which actually took place on the 14th September. In his marriage application, ISAACS particularly requested that no publicity be given to the forthcoming ceremony. It appears that Miss ROBINSON is a follower of the Suffragette, Lucy STONE, who, some fifteen or twenty years ago, advocated among American women the retention of the maiden name after marriage. According to officials of the United States Consulate General, Viola ROBINSON, therefore, will not be known as Mrs. ISAACS.

In connection with Viola ROBINSON's activities in China, in a letter, dated Szechuen, July 24, 1931, Harold ISAACS wrote to Viola ROBINSON as follows:

> "You are in the swim, Viola. I'm coming back to dive in and swim alongside. What do you think? It is all extremely fortuitous from our standpoint that I should have seen the light at last. Your work with HUCG and the future in it is far more important than anything you could do out here or anywhere else for that matter. I'll get back - no matter a possible delay - no matter how - there will be a job to be done and by our gods I'm going to get into it..."

Attention is called to the name HUCG mentioned in the above extract.

A TRUE COPY OF THE SIGNED ORIGINAL
WMC

RECORD COPY

1442 -
H/W ATT CC TO 35356

201-18446

No. 5019

9 m. Isaacs, Harold

Confidential.

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE.

American Consulate General,
Shanghai, China, December 16, 1931.

Subject: Harold R. Isaacs.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that an American citizen named Harold R. Isaacs has been reported to this office by the police of the International Settlement as a communist suspect. The facts regarding Mr. Isaacs are briefly as follows:

Mr. Harold R. Isaacs called at this office in December, 1930, and stated that he would be for a few months in Shanghai; at that time he exhibited passport No. 177026, issued by the Department of State on March 17, 1930. He stated that he expected to leave Shanghai in June, 1931; that his home was in New York City and that his local address was in care of the American Express Company.

According to Police reports Isaacs arrived in Shanghai from Manila as a first-class passenger on the S. S. PRESIDENT JEFFERSON on December 17, 1930. He was employed by the SHANGHAI EVENING POST AND MERCURY and later by the CHINA PRESS but apparently lost both

positions.

H/W ATT 07 TO XAA 2-35656

201-15446

positions. He has resided with a British subject named C. Frank Glass at 128 Weihaiwei Road and made a trip with Glass to Szechuen during June, 1931. The police file contains a copy of a letter written by him to a Miss Viola Robinson, care of the American Consulate, Dresden, Germany, dated July 24, 1931, at Chengtu, Szechuen. This letter, it is stated, was returned unopened to Shanghai from Dresden, addressed to Harold R. Isaacs in care of the American Express Company, Shanghai, and was opened by the Post Office Censor at the request of the Commissioner of Posts. The letter is very long and shows that Isaacs, although previously holding communistic views, only decided definitely to turn "Red" during July of this year. He states that he was influenced in this decision by certain conversations with C. Frank Glass, above referred to, during their trip to Szechuen.

In connection therewith it may be of interest to state that according to a police report dated October 17, 1931, information regarding this letter was given by the Shanghai Municipal Police to an officer of the local British Consulate General, who apparently cabled information regarding it to London. The police report states that a reply was subsequently receive the gist of which is as follows:

> "Viola Robinson arrived in the United States about the middle of September. The whole family are communists in touch with Isaacs' family."

The police state that Harold R. Isaacs in November, 1931, established a news agency under the name of the

"Far

"Far Eastern Press Correspondence," cable address Feapreop, P. O. Box 1920. On October 8th Isaacs and C. Frank Glass moved from 123 Weihaiwei Road to House No. 6, Passage No. 177, Avenue Dubail. The police state that this address was formerly known as Number 25 Avenue Dubail and is the boarding house at which Agnes Smedley resided from May, 1929, to May 1930. The police report that Agnes Smedley frequently visits Isaacs and Glass at this address.

In my monthly political report for November, on page 15 it was stated that the bodies of numerous members of the family of a certain Kou had been murdered, allegedly by communists in retaliation for Kou's turning traitor to the communist cause. In connection with this matter Isaacs addressed an open letter to the various newspapers of Shanghai, under date of November 24, 1931, in which he scored them for branding these alleged murders as "horrible" and "dastardly," while at the same time they did not raise their editorial voices against the wholesale murders committed by Chiang Kai-shek, the Garrison Commander of Shanghai and other Chinese militarists. None of the papers saw fit to publish this letter but I
1/ have received a copy thereof, and copies are enclosed. I have also received a photostatic copy of the last page containing the signature of Mr. Isaacs.

Respectfully yours,

Edwin S. Cunningham,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:

20-1914

14-00000



Enclosure:
1/- Copy of open letter from Harold R. Isaacs, dated November 24, 1931.

A true copy of the signed orig.

PHJ MB
GCCB

In Quadruplicate

No Copy to Location.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 1019 of Edwin S. Cunningham, American Consul General at Shanghai, China, dated December 16, 1931, on the subject: "Harold R. Isaacs."

COPY

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS OF SHANGHAI.

Your publication of the "ghastly" (Shanghai Times), "horrible" (China Press), "dastardly" (Evening Post and North China Daily News) murders allegedly committed by Chinese Communists in the French Concession brings forcibly to mind certain other aspects of the Chinese scene whose ghastliness and barbarity find their way into your columns only at rare intervals - and then only in brief cool paragraphs.

There can be no attempt to "justify" these alleged murders, if the tale be true. We all hate the guts of a traitor. But we cannot all condone a system of vendetta which exacts as the price of betrayal the innocent lives of a traitor's family. That, however, involves the question of differing social customs to which no abstract moral a solute can possibly be applied.

Betrayal has its price under any social norm, whether we turn the dirty work of vengeance over to the ineffable mercies of the Lord or employ the less aesthetic but more effective instruments of the gallows, electric chair, lethal chamber, the guillotine or the more refined weapons of social ostracism; whether we consider the traitor himself responsible for his actions - or exact retribution from his blood relations as well. (Jehovah, too, visits the sins of the father upon his children, yea, even unto the third and fourth generations!)

But you reporters, whose typewriters quivered with the horror of these alleged deeds of murder in Frenchtown can still without a qualm condone and even express satisfaction at mass murders a thousand times more revolting, a thousand times more barbarous - but less so in your journalistically judicious eyes only because officially perpetrated.

You city editors - at the moment sending your men out to run down the last threaded folds to this particular story - why don't you send them out to Lunghua some fine sunny morning? Why don't you give them an opportunity to witness the torture and murder of young men and women whose only crime is a realistic appreciation of the social and economic factors at work in the world and a demand for their readjustment?

You editors, who wield your editorial powers so self-righteously, why don't you consistently examine and logically expose a government that maintains itself largely by desperately slaughtering the flower of its protesting youth and the backbone of its peasant masses who attempt protest against its venality and corruption?

Only

Only when it is convenient for your foreign interests, however, do you find it politic to trot out some of your favorite blasts against the Nanking regime, attacks which are almost always immediately offset by the nauseating eulogies and blatant lies that follow.

Considered from your own point of view, Messrs. Editors, the murderers of these Frenchtown people should be brought to justice and made to pay for their crimes. But similarly from your own point of view, to what bar of justice should Chiang Kai Shek be brought, before what tribunals can we arraign the garrison commanders of Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, the warlords of Shantung, Szechuen, Kwangtung and Manchuria for the lives they have taken in the perpetual wars they have waged on the people of China? On any principles of abstract justice, is the mass murder of thousands by the machine gun, the bomber, the rifle, the sword, the axe any more just than the furtive strangulation of nine hopeless relatives of a self-branded yellow cur? This perpetual warfare has been waged on the pretext of suppressing "banditry." If this be so, we are confronted with the startling fact, vouched for and advertised by the government boasting the recognition of all foreign powers, that vast portions of the Chinese population are criminal! On this premise, Chiang Kai Shek & Co. backed by the cohorts of the Soong Menage swoop down on whole provinces, massacre thousands, take heavy tolls from the meagre life earnings of peasants and workers. And with all their guns and planes and hundreds of thousands of soldiers, they still fail to eradicate the "bandits."

Who are the bandits, the robbers, the murderers? Answer this question, Messrs. Editors - and answer it honestly if you dare!

Japan, in violation of so-called principles of justice, but in full accord with the lessons of history, is helping herself to a good slice of Continental Asia, allegedly part of the Nanking Government's domain. Lacking the courage, the ability, the inclination to turn its guns on the invader, the Kuomintang sits in solemn conclave at Nanking and discusses further measures which, it hopes, will permit the extermination of new portions of China's vast "criminal" population to progress more effectively.

Let us take some of the facts sporadically reported by your own and the Chinese press during May-December, 1930. You reported 4,749 executions. From other, more meticulous sources are derived statistics which show that no less than 96510 were executed during the last four months of 1930 alone! This figure sounds globular, doesn't it? Yet for every digit there is somewhere in China a rotting corpse.

During the period following the close of the so-called "military" period of the Kuomintang in 1928

to the opening of the Third Plenary Session of the Party in 1929 approximately 450,00 workers, peasants, and students met death at the hands of China's "revolutionary" armies. One Shanghai daily (Chinese) late the next year editorialized as follows:-

"All China's problems could be satisfactorily settled if the good work of the past few months can be continued. From August to October (1930) alone 140,000 Communists were killed and 450,000 people starved to death in the famine regions."

And if the dimensions of these figures are not ghastly enough to move you, shall we engage in a bit of felicitous description of the tortures applied by these righteous saviors of China? Shall we speak of the burnings in oil, the buying alive (as were five young men and women at Lunghua on Feb. 7 last) the strangulations, the unspeakable mutilation of human bodies before death? These aren't wild nightmares. You have all seen and shuddered at the photographs which can still be bought here and there in Shanghai depicting these processes in all their grisliness.

And at these, Messrs. Editors, do you raise your editorial hands in saintly horror? Do you splash your columns with the adjectives "dastardly, horrible, ghastly?" Hardly. That would offend your Nanking friends. If you do not maintain silence that bespeaks contentment, you brazenly applaud. For this we can quote you chapter and verse from your own editorials.

There are no organs, no publications here that dare look these facts boldly in the face. Your mastheads all carry boasts of your impartiality. Here is at least one opportunity to invest them with some quality of verisimilitude.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Harold R. Isaacs
177 Avenue Dubail,
House 6.

November 24, 1931.

Copied by MB B
Compared with M H HH

·EE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES FILES 9??-Isaacs, Harold R.

FILE NO.

SOURCE: D.W.

DATE: 8-4-32

# EDITOR OF CHINA PAPER IN DANGER

## Threat to Turn Isaacs Over to Nanking

SHANGHAI, Aug. 2.—The Wall Street government, supporting its Nanking butcher agents, has threatened to turn over Harold R. Isaacs, American editor of the "China Forum," to the Nanking hangmen.

As editor of the "China Forum," Isaacs has committed the crime against imperialism of supporting the Chinese Revolution and ruthlessly exposing the mass murder of revolutionary Chinese workers and peasants by the Nanking regime and the United States and other imperialist brigands. He has exposed the shameful sell-out of the Chinese masses by the Nanking traitors to the Japanese, American and other imperialists.

The United States government has warned Isaacs that it will withdraw the protection of extra-territorial rights unless the "China Forum" changes its editorial and news policies. Under the extra-territoriality treaties imposed upon China by the imperialists, American and other citizens of the imperialist powers may not be tried in the Chinese courts. Because Isaacs is an American citizen the Nanking government has not been able to wreack its vengeance on him for his exposure of their bloody terror and betrayal of the Chinese masses. The Wall Street Government, which protects its business agents in looting China now proposes to throw Isaacs to its Nanking lackeys for trial in the Chinese courts on charges carrying life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Isaacs has categorically refused to concede to the demands of the United States government that he change the policies of the "China Forum." He is closely associated in the anti-imperialist, anti-Kuomintang fight with Madame Sun Yat-sen, who is chairman of the committee leading the fight to save Paul and Gertrude Rueggs from a death sentence in the Chinese courts.

American workers and intellectuals and their organizations should at once send vigorous protest to the State Department at Washington against its attempt to railroad Isaacs to death in the Nanking Courts.

RECORD COPY

H/W ATT [illegible] ?442-3X0?

201-13??

14-00000

Press Conference 7/30/32.

9550 Isaacs



direct to Paris for three or four days before proceeding to London. His visit to Paris is, therefore, strictly unofficial.

FRANCE

A correspondent asked if the French Government had asked the State Department for an agrément for a new Ambassador in Washington, M. Germaine-Martin. Mr. Rogers replied in the negative.

CHINA

A correspondent asked if Representative La Guardia of New York had asked the State Department to intervene in the case of an American named Harold Isaacs who is now editing a newspaper in China, which, according to press despatches, is a Communist organ. The correspondent continued by saying that according to stories the American diplomatic officers in China warned Mr. Isaacs that he would be likely to lose his extraterritorial status because of hisactivities. Furthermore, his father, who is in New York, wants the Department of State to get Mr. Harold Isaacs back and have him deported. In reply, Mr. Rogers said that he knew nothing of any communication from Mr. La Guardia on the subject. In regard to the story, it is not true that this Government has threatened to deprive Mr. Isaacs of his extraterritorial rights in Shanghai.

BOLIVIA-PARAGUAY

A correspondent asked if the State Department had received any reports to the effect that the Bolivians had captured two Paraguayan forts. In reply, Mr. Rogers said that he understood that Assistant Secretary White talked with the correspondents last night concerning the situation and that Mr. White might possibly be able to see the correspondents again today.

H/W ATT 09 TO (342 - 3536   RECORD COPY   201-15446

FBI REPORT
DATE: 10 AUGUST 1953
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 - BUREAU
105-1247 - NEW YORK

Secret

ZOTOV, IVAN PAVLOVICH S211600/1970 WEST GERMANY 1970

19 MORDOVIAN REPUBLIC ASSR



~~[illegible]~~

201-254377

25 Jan 19

MD

018446

201-018446

Secret

FBI REPORT
DATE: 6 AUG 1952
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 (BUREAU)
105-1247 (NEW YORK)

SECRET

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
| --- | --- |
| | 1. RI FILE NO. |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. / 4. DATE |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM / 8. DATE OF INFO. / 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST / 6. DATE PROCESSED | 10. DISSEMINATED IN / 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE

13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO.

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

ISAACS, HAROLD R.
201-018446
SEX M DOB 13 SEP 10
USA, NY, NYC
CIT USA
OCC JOURNALIST
a LO, SEN
NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT IN SHANHAI IN 30S.
INVOLVED IN CP FRONT ACTIVITIES. CONTACT
OF SMEDLEY AND NOULENS. POSS IDEN W/ALIAS
JACOB, A MBR OF SORGE GRU RING IN SHANGHAI.

201-000415
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13 APR 67
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FILE IN 201-018446

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

FORM 3-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(7-46)

14-00000

# DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

PROCESSING ACTION: MARKED FOR INDEXING; XX NO INDEXING REQUIRED; ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING; MICROFILM

TO: Chief, DO

INFO.

FROM: WOMACE Representative, Boston

SUBJECT: ISOLOG/WUSPARROW/Operational
Dr. Harold R. ISAACS, Professor of Political Science at M.I.T.

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

1. On 12 July 1967, WUSPARROW/1 renewed his old friendship with Subject at the MIT Faculty Club. Subject is now a senior research associate at MIT's Center for International Studies and has recently been named a Professor.

2. For the past few years Subject has been working on an international study series involving minority racial groups. His reports have been published in the New Yorker magazine and as books, The New World of Negro Americans and India's Untouchables. Subject plans to publish in August 1967 a book on the American Jews in Israel and is working on another on the Philippines.

3. WUSPARROW/1 first met Subject in 1946 after he had just completed a long and friendly interview with Ho Chi Minh as Far East correspondent for Newsweek. At that time, Subject felt that the United States was making a mistake in not accepting Ho as the leader of a united Vietnam, feeling that Ho was independent enough of China to make him at worst a sort of Tito.

4. Subject presently is despairing of United States foreign relations in that our people from Washington, or elsewhere, seldom seem to establish a deep rapport with Asian or African nationals. Subject feels that such relations as do exist never reach more than an ineffective superficial level.

5. Subject first went to the Far East about 1930 when he was a crew member of the Matson Line's Malolo and disembarked at Honolulu to work for the Honolulu Advertiser. (WUSPARROW/1 went to work for the same paper two years later.) Subject went next to the Philippines where he worked on a Manila daily. While in Manila he was offered the editorship of the Bangkok Royal Mail, to fill in for St. Clair McELWAY, now of the New Yorker.

CONTINUED . . .

Distribution:
2 - C/DO

CS Copy filed 200-6-360/3 File in 201-12446

| CROSS REFERENCE TO | DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER | DATE |
|---|---|---|
| | UTBA - 543 | 11 August 1967 |
| | CLASSIFICATION: SECRET | HQS FILE NUMBER: 200-6-360/3 |

| CONTINUATION OF DISPATCH | CLASSIFICATION SECRET | DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER UTBA - 543 |
|---|---|---|

6. Subject's mind was set on China and in late 1931 he went to Shanghai and joined The China Press, working alongside Tiliman DURDIN, now of the New York Times. Subject lost his job with The China Press after a flare-up with Hollington TONG, part-owner of the paper. Subject then joined the Newsweek foreign staff. Subject was in and out of Bangkok after World War II and WUSPARROW/1 became friendly with him. According to WUSPARROW/1, many people regard Subject's Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution as a significant work and a recent writer on China, Dennis BLOODWORTH, holds a good view of Subject's Scratches on the Mind.

7. Subject now seems permanently settled with MIT, having bought a home at 96 Farlow Road, Newton. Subject hosts there at pool-side "seminars" on Saturday afternoons, with MIT faculty friends and journalist friends such as Bob SHAPLEN coming by. Subject invited WUSPARROW/1 to participate as well.

8. However, as WUSPARROW/1 ascertained, Subject has little contact with foreign students save for an occasional adult foreign graduate student. We hope, considering Subject's background, that he will prove with WUSPARROW/1's guidance to be a profitable unwitting spotter and assessor of foreign graduate students.

LOUIS K. ROLLOFIER

14-00000

N/C Traces
1-6347
DW-7

US

SECRET

2nd tracer

Priority Urgent

RECEIVED

Telephone Request for Name Check     For Use of RI Name Check Control Office

FROM PSB/FBI     DATE 24 NOV 1965

TAKEN BY Gerry F.     CHECKED BY ____ REPLY ____

ROBINSON, Viola
NAME     ALIAS AND SPELLING VARIATIONS

U. S.     6/20/10
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA

REFERENCES     NA1 to CSCI 316/04352-65
dated 26 Oct. 65
subject: ISAACS, Harold Robert
per Trace by Diann
on 10 Nov. 65

WKM
24/11/65

26 NOV 1965 IN 201-18446

14-00000

Special

RETURN TO: Tainor
10/14/65 caw
FILE #151-1423
PC
BUDED: 11/11a

eII
HSC
PC

NAME: ISAACS, HAROLD ROBERT

See CSC #5-22-66-2153 + Rep 10-13-65

BORN: Sept. 13, 1910, NYC, NY

MS: married Viola Robinson, dob June 20, 1910, NYC, NY
married Shanghai, Sept. 14, 1932

ISAACS

ADDRESSES:
Aug., 1965 to present, 96 Farlow Rd., Newton, Mass.
July, 1953 to Aug., 1965 Mass.
Feb., 1944 to July, 1953, 333 Central Pk. West, NYC, NY
Sept., 1941 to Feb., 1944, 4938 Newport Ave., Friendship Hts., Md.
1940 to Sept., 1941, 72 Pk. Terrace West, NYC, NY
1937 to 1940, 40 Monroe St., NYC, NY

EDUCATION
George Washington H. S., NYC, 1923 to 1926

SSN: 082-03-4029

EMPLOYMENT:
1953 , Mass. Inst. of Technology, Camb, Mass., academic, research
1943 to 1950, Newsweek, WDC, CBI, Pacific, SE Asia, NYC, reporter, war corres. assoc. editor
1943, Lockheed Aircraft Corp., WDC, radio writer,
1940 to 1943, Columbia Broadcasting Co., NYC, WDC, writer
1934 to 1935, self employed, Peking, China, writer
1932 to 1934, Havas News Agency, Shanghai, China, news editor
1931 to 1932, China Press, Shanghai, China, city editor
1930 to 1931, Shai Evening Post, Shanghai, China, reporter
1930, Honolulu Advertiser, Honolulu, reporter

FOREIGN TRAVEL:
China, 1930 to 1935, Travel, work, writing
China, Burma, India, 1944, to 1945, war corres. Newsweek
PI, India, Indonesia, 1949 to 1949, Newsweek assignment
Phillippines, 1950 to 1950, cover Baguo conference
Europe Mainly UK, 1957 to 1957, travel, visit university
Czech., Israel, India, 1960 to 1960, academic research project
Malaya, PI., etc., 1963 to 1964,

RELATIVES:
Father, I. Robert Isaacs, deceased
Mother, Sophie Dorlin, deceased
Wife, Viola Robinson Isaacs, dob 1910, same

REF 65
1/11/65 [illegible]

REFERENCE:
Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps., WDC, known 17 yrs.

FILE IN 201-18446
(husband's 201)

NAI to information furnided in
~~[illegible] 1965~~
OSCI-316/04352-65 dated 26 October 1965
subject: ISAACS, Harold Robert.

possible source

10 NOV 1965
DMS

1 NOV 1965

14-00000

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# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

| FROM: | EXTENSION | NO. |
|---|---|---|
| CI RID/CE US UNITED STATES | | CSCI 316/04352-65 |
| | | DATE: 25 October 1965 |

| TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building) | DATE RECEIVED | DATE FORWARDED | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. CI STAFF 2C 35 | 26 OCT 1965 | | | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. RID/CE GA-10 Attn: Sarah Marmaduke | 26 OCT 1965 | | | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. RID/AN GA 50 | | | | |
| 6. | | | | |
| 7. RI/TY | | | | TO: PSB/FBI |
| 8. | | | | |
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| 11. | | | | FILE TITLE |
| 12. | | | | |
| 13. | | | | FILE NUMBER: 201 184 46 |
| 14. | | | | ENCLOSURE / ABSTRACT X |
| 15. RID/FI 1B 4003 | | | | DOCUMENT DATE 26 OCT 1965 / INDEX |

FORM 3-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☒ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

26 OCT 1965

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
ATTN: Special Agent in Charge of
Washington Field Office

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: ISAACS, Harold Robert

Reference is made to the request dated 14 October 1965 concerning Subject. Attached for your retention is a copy of our CSCI-316/04169-65, dated 13 October 1965, subject: ISAACS, Harold Robert. It is noted that a portion of the information appearing in said CSCI was previously forwarded to you in our SODB 20568, dated 2 December 1949, subject: Harold Robert ISAACS.

CSCI-316/04352-65

Encl. 1 name check
1 attachment as stated above

RID/CE: JMA/CPL/ell

Based on: CSCI-316/04169-65

CS COPY

201-18446

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

IN 201-18446

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OCT 15

Special

U8T

RETURN TO: Tainor
10/14/65 caw
FILE #151-1423
PC
BUDED: 11/11a

NAME: ISAACS, HAROLD ROBERT

BORN: Sept. 13, 1910, NYC, NY

MS: married Viola Robinson, dob June 20, 1910, NYC, NY
married Shanghai, Sept. 14, 1932

ADDRESSES:
Aug., 1965 to present, 96 Farlow Rd., Newton, Mass.
July, 1953 to Aug., 1965 Mass.
Feb., 1944 to July, 1953, 333 Central Pk. West, NYC, NY
Sept., 1941 to Feb., 1944, 4938 Newport Ave., Friendship Hts., Md.
1940 to Sept., 1941, 72 Pk. Terrace West, NYC, NY
1937 to 1940, 40 Monroe St., NYC, NY

EDUCATION
George Washington H. S., NYC, 1923 to 1926

SSN: 082-03-4029

EMPLOYMENT:
1953 , Mass. Inst. of Technology, Camb, Mass., academic, research
1943 to 1950, Newsweek, WDC, CBI, Pacific, SE Asia, NYC, reporter, war corres. assoc. editor
1943, Lockheed Aircraft Corp., WDC, radio writer,
1940 to 1943, Columbia Broadcasting Co., NYC, WDC, writer
1934 to 1935, self employed, Peking, China, writer
1932 to 1934, Havas News Agency, Shanghai, China, news editor
1931 to 1932, China Press, Shanghai, China, city editor
1930 to 1931, Shai Evening Post, Shanghai, China, reporter
1930, Honolulu Advertiser, Honolulu, reporter

DATE 22 OCT 1965 INITIALS
RI ANALYST

FOREIGN TRAVEL:
China, 1930 to 1935, travel, work, writing
China, Burma, India, 1943 to 1945, war corres. Newsweek
PI, India, Indonesia, 1949 to 1949, Newsweek assignment
Phillippines, 1950 to 1950, cover Baguo conference
Europe Mainly UK, 1957 to 1957, travel, visit university
Czech., Israel, India, 1960 to 1960, academicK research project
Malaya, PI., etc., 1964 to 1964,

RELATIVES:
Father, I. Robert Issacs, deceased
Mother, Sophie Dorlin, deceased
Wife, Viola Robinson Isaacs, dob 1910, same

FILE IN 201-

REFERENCE: ICA 20
CS COPY
Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps., WDC, known 17 yrs.

18 OCT 1965

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RETURN TO: Tainer
10/14/65 caw
FILE #151-1423
TC
CODED: 11/XXa

C.A.

HS

OCT 21

NAME: ISAACS, HAROLD ROBERT

BORN: Sept. 13, 1910, NYC, NY

MS: married Viola Robinson, ISAACS dob June 20, 1910, NYC, NY
married Shanghai, Sept. 14, 1932

ADDRESSES:
Aug., 1965 to present, 96 Farlow Rd., Newton, Mass.
July, 1953 to Aug., 1965 Mass.
Feb., 1944 to July, 1953, 333 Central Pk. West, NYC, NY
Sept., 1941 to Feb., 1944, 4933 Newport Ave., Friendship Hts., Md.
1940 to Sept., 1941, 72 Pk. Terrace West, NYC, NY
1937 to 1940, 40 Monroe St., NYC, NY

EDUCATION
George Washington H. S., NYC, 1923 to 1926

SSN: 082-03-4020

EMPLOYMENT: 1935-1940 HAVAS News Agency
1950-1953 Self-employed - writer NYC
1953 , Mass. Inst. of Technology, Camb, Mass., academic, research
1943 to 1950, Newsweek, WDC, CBI, Pacific, SE Asia, NYC, reporter, war corres. assoc. editor
1943, Lockheed Aircraft Corp., WDC, radio writer,
1940 to 1943, Columbia Broadcasting Co., NYC, WDC, writer
1934 to 1935, self employed, Peking, China, writer
1932 to 1934, Havas News Agency, Shanghai, China, news editor
1931 to 1932, China Press, Shanghai, China, city editor (CHINA FORUM)
1930 to 1931, Shai Evening Post, Shanghai, China, reporter
1930, Honolulu Advertiser, Honolulu, reporter
1928-1930 New York Times - Reporter

FOREIGN TRAVEL:
China, 1930 to 1935, Travel, work, writing
China, Burma, India, 1944, to 1945, war corres. Newsweek
PI, India, Indonesia, 1949 to 1949, Newsweek assignment
Phillippines, 1950 to 1950, cover Baguo conference
Europe Mainly UK, 1957 to 1957, travel, visit university
Czech., Israel, India, 1960 to 1960, academicX research project
Malaya, PI., etc., 1963 to 1964,

RELATIVES:
Father, I. Robert Isaacs, deceased
Mother, Sophie Berlin, deceased
Wife, Viola Robinson Isaacs, dob 1910, same

REFERENCE:
Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps., WDC, known 17 yrs.

22/10/65

FILE IN 201-12446
(husband's 201)

possible scef

22 OCT 1965

NAI to information forwarded in CSCI-316/04352-65, dated 26 October 1965, subject: ISAACS, Harold Robert.

DMS

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☒ SECRET

# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: RID/CE US

EXTENSION:

NO. CSCI 316/ 04169-65

DATE 11 October 1965

| TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building) | DATE RECEIVED | DATE FORWARDED | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. CI STAFF 2C 35 | 12 OCT 1965 | | CG | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. RID/CE GA-10 Attn: Sarah Marmaduke | 13 OCT 1965 | | EK | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. RID/AN GA 50 | | | | |
| 6. | | | | |
| 7. RID/MIS | | | | |
| 8. | | | | TO: PSB/CSC |
| 9. | | | | |
| 10. | | | | |
| 11. | | | | |
| 12. | | | | |
| 13. | | | | |
| 14. | | | | |
| 15. RID/FI 1B 4003 | | | | |

FILE TITLE

FILE NUMBER: 201-18446

ENCLOSURE

ABSTRACT X

DOCUMENT DATE 13 OCT 1965

INDEX

FORM 3-62 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☒ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

13 OCT 1965

TO: United States Civil Service Commission
Attention: Mr. Joseph G. Campbell

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: ISAACS, Harold Robert

1. Reference is made to your request dated 14 September 1965. The files of this office contain considerable information concerning Subject, the salient elements of which are summarized below.

2. According to undated information from a reliable source, Subject born 13 September 1910 in New York City, arrived in Shanghai, China, from Manila, Philippine Islands, in December 1930. First employed in Shanghai by the English language daily, Evening Post and Mercury, Subject became associated a few weeks later with the China Press, with which he remained until May 1931. In June 1931 Subject traveled up the Yangtze River with the British Communist, Cecil Frank GLASS, a suspected agent for the Third International in China. Also in 1931, Subject became the Shanghai secretary of the Comite Internationale Pour la Defense de Paul et Gertrude RUEGG (NOULENS), a committee, with Headquarters in Berlin, formed to aid the defense of the NOULENS against charges of espionage perferred by the Chinese Government. Subject was in correspondence with Willi MUENZENBERG, President of the Committee and an active agent in Germany for the Third International. Subject was also known to be in contact with Agnes SMEDLEY in Shanghai during the same period. On 14 September 1932 in Shanghai, Subject married Viola ROBINSON, an American citizen born 10 June 1910 in New York City. Miss ROBINSON was believed to have been connected with Communist activities in the United States and in China. Correspondence between her and Subject prior to their marriage indicated that they were both sympathetic to activities being conducted by the Communists in China.

FILE IN 201-184464

CS COPY

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

201-184446

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SECRET
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3. According to predecessor organization information, Subject was also employed as a staff writer for the Havas News Agency in Shanghai during the period 1930-1935 and was a member of the Society of Friends of the USSR and of the China League for Civil Rights.

4. An undated report from an unknown source indicated that Subject had turned against the Stalinist Government of the USSR, and had become a Trotskyite (probably during the mid-1930's). Friends of Subject stated that even during the height of his Trotskyist career he never accepted money from any group, that he was open and above board, and that he never engaged in any conspiracies to overthrow established government. They also indicated that Subject was attracted to communism by sheer idealism. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Subject broke with the Trotskyite group as he had broken with the Communists and began writing propaganda for the United States Government.

5. According to Source of paragraph 2, Subject was a war correspondent in China during World War II for Newsweek. In July 1945 he was refused entry into China by Chinese Nationalist authorities, presumably as a result of anti-Nationalist articles he wrote for Newsweek. In 1949 Subject was Special Features Editor for that magazine, at 152 West 42nd Street, New York City. He was the author of several books, including No Peace in Asia and The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution.

6. Subject's present political beliefs are unknown to this office.

CSCI-316/04169-65

Encl. 1 name check

RID/CE: JMA/DS/lpm

Based on: SODB-20568
CSCI-3/778,850

SECRET
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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

14-00000

#451

14 SEP 1965

HUNT 9-14-65

H.R. H

ISAACS, Harled Robert 9-13-10
NewYork

ISACKS
ISAAKS

N USA

Mass

possible SO ref 52473

DD 10-5

| MEMORANDUM ... | |
|---|---|
| Date 05 Oct 65 | |
| RI ANALYST | DMS |
| DATE | BRANCH |
| FE / COOS | |
| FE / JKOJO | |
| | |
| RI EDITOR | |
| RI ... | |

FILE IN 201 - 18446

15 SEP 1965

201-18446

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
|---|---|
| Suspected Soviet Agents domiciled in Shahghai | 2. RI FILE NO. CHINA-CI AOP-L |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SMP-D 4718 Box 193 — 4. DATE |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM — 8. DATE OF INFO. — 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JEP — 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 1963 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN — 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| | |
|---|---|
| xxx 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14. Interested parties in the subjcet of HAROLD ISAACKS ~~are~~ referred to this document The bulky nature of this document plus numerous refs to other individuals and the poor quality of paper this makes it necessary to leave the file in its present classification.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

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# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

27 Nov 63

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: RID/CE FE Japan 10

NO. CSCI-3/ 778,850

DATE 22 November 1963

| TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building) | DATE REC'D | DATE FWD'D | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. CI STAFF 2C 35 | 26 ... | 1963 | mm | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. | | | | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. RID/AN GA 50 | | | Ry | |
| 6. Rid/MIS | | | 96 | |
| 7. | | | | |
| 8. | | | | TO: ACSI (Telephonic) |
| 9. | | | | |
| 10. | | | | |
| 11. | | | | FILE TITLE |
| 12. | | | | |
| 13. | | | | FILE NUMBER 201-18446 |
| 14. | | | | ENCLOSURE 1 ABSTRACT X |
| 15. RID/FI 1B 4003 | | | | DOCUMENT DATE 27 NOV 1963 INDEX |

FORM 1 DEC 55 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS OP-56 5-62 ☒ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

27 NOV 1963

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
Attention: Chief, Counterintelligence
Branch Security Division

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: ISAACS, Harold Robert

1. Reference is made to the request received on 14 October 1963 from Lt. Whipple concerning Subject. With respect to the specific questions posed in the request, Subject is the author of a number of books, including No Peace in Asia, Five Years of Kuomintang Reaction, and The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution. The files contain no information concerning Subject's teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; however they do contain the following summary of unevaluated information based on several predecessor organization reports. Additional information concerning Subject is contained in our SODB 20588, dated 2 December 1949, subject: Harold Robert ISACCS, a copy of which is attached for your retention.

a. Subject was employed as a staff writer for the Havas News Agency in Shanghai from 1930-1935. He was also editor and publisher of the China Forum, a communist periodical, from January 1932 to an unspecified date. In July 1932 ISAACS wrote and published the above-cited Five Years of Kuomintang Reaction, a 136-page illustrated book of Communist nature. While in Shanghai he was a member of The Society of Friends of the USSR (Shanghai Branch) and The China League for Civil Rights.

b. In 1933 Shanghai authorities listed Subject's wife, Viola ROBINSON, as a suspect Soviet agent residing in Shanghai. Prior to their marriage on 14 September 1932, ISAACS stated in a letter to Miss ROBINSON that he had definitely turned "Red." All the members of the ROBINSON family were described as Communists.

201-18446

1 Encl

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downgrading and
declassification

FILE IN 201-18446

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c. In July 1933 the Nanking Government ordered the Municipality of Greater Shanghai to take drastic measures to stop the propaganda appearing in a number of publications including the China Forum, published by Subject. Subject's magazine allegedly published Communist propaganda; in this connection a protest was to be lodged against him with the American Consulate.

d. Subject was described as a "self-confessed Communist" in 1933. The following year he wrote an article entitled "I Break With The Chinese Stalinists" which appeared in the September-October 1934 edition of The New International, a Communist propaganda organ published in New York.

2. An undated report from an unknown source indicated that Subject had turned against the Stalinist Government of the USSR, becoming a Trotskyite(probably during the mid-1930's). Friends of Subject stated that even during the height of his Trotskyist career he never accepted money from any group, that he was open and above board, and that he never engaged in any conspiracies to overthrow established government. They also stated that Subject was attracted to Communism by "sheer idealism." Immediately after Pearl Harbor, ISAACS broke with the Trotskyite group as he had broken with the Communists and began writing propaganda for the United States Government.

3. According to a report dated 25 June 1951 from a fairly reliable source, Subject served at that time as a Ford Foundation advisor on Far Eastern Projects.

4. For additional information concerning Subject you are referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the Department of the Navy (no documentation available).

CSCI-3/778,880

Encl: 1 attachment as stated above.

RID/CE: JHA/MI/dcl

Based on: FE/1, 201-18446*
CHINA CIA OP 1, SMPD 2713, 10-11-32
CHINA CIA OP 1, SMPD 4606, 16-5-33
CHINA CIA OP 1, SMPD 4718
CHINA CIA OP1, SMPD 4685 & 4685/C
CHINA CIA OP 1, SMPD 5454-8,21-12-33
CHINA CIA OP 1, SMPD 6628
FDZ, 201-488-8
SO for NAVY referal.

SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEM

CS CO[illegible]

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

14-00000

Cscl-3/778,850

DW/7 A404 A404

166353

FE

TELEPHONE REQUEST FOR NAME CHECK

FROM: ACSI - Lt. Whipple via Jane Roman DATE 14 Oct 63

TAKEN BY Moran CHECKED BY REPLY

ISAACS, Harold Robert
NAME ALIAS AND SPELLING VARIATIONS

born 1910
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA

REFERENCES

Author of many books on China - S. E. Asia

Harold R.Isaacs authority on China

Harold R. Isaacs teaches at MIT

are all the names the same person?

| MEMORANDUM COORDINATION | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cy 9 NOV 1963 | | INITIALS |
| RI ANALYST | | mz |
| DIV. | BRANCH | |
| FE | China | |
| FE | JAPAN | |
| RI EDITOR | | |
| RI TYPIST | | |

Summary of DL info

Reproduction Rec.

Encl# 1

15/10/63 37N5067

201-18446

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FILE IN 201 18446 *

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# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
|---|---|
| | 2. RI FILE NO. |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. / 4. DATE |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM / 8. DATE OF INFO. / 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST: [illegible] / 6. DATE: 12 Sep 58 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN / 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

THERE IS A RESTRICTED CI/CA FOLDER ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS 201 HELD UNDER CI 5237

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201 - 18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dutch Consul General Reports, Shanghai | 2. RI FILE NO. 16-5-16 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. ONHA-12913 | 4. DATE 6 Jun 58 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST MS | 6. DATE PROCESSED 20 OCT 1965 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

H. R. ISAACS

American Communist, Suspected of working for the Komintern and the RIS.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(7-46)

(175)

| ABSTRACT OF DOCUMENT BEING CROSS FILED | | | CROSS FILED BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| FILE NO. | SOURCE | DATE OF DOCUMENT | ANALYST |
| JO - 5237 | CI/OA | | |
| SUBJECT | | | DATE |
| ISAACS, HAROLD R. Born - 1910 - nationality - American | | | 26 JUN 1956 |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

THERE IS A RESTRICTED CI/OA FOLDER ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS 201 HELD IN RI/AR FILE, WASH-CIA-PERS-4.

CROSS REFERENCE FORM

FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 11446 |

FORM NO. 137 REPLACES FORM 58-34
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED. (35)

14-00000

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

5 May 1956

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: RI/ANALYSIS

TELEPHONE:

NO. NPK-A-4384

DATE:

| TO | ROOM NO. | DATE REC'D | DATE FWD'D | OFFICER'S INITIALS | TELEPHONE | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. NE | 1109 | 7 MAY 1956 | | | | Econ. Offs. Mtgs - Pakistan |
| 2. | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | |
| 4. CTK | | | | CTK | | Petra |
| 5. | | | | | | Issued an agreement to Sub. Requested from Barbara Wendt on 28 May 56 |
| 6. | | | | | | |
| 7. | | | | | | |
| 8. | | | | | | |
| 9. | | 20 AUG 1956 | | | | CARDED BY |
| 10. | | | | | | |
| 11. | | | | | | |
| 12. | | | | | | |
| 13. | | | | | | |
| 14. | | | | | | |
| 15. RI/FI | 1409 L | | | | | |

ABSTRACT | INDEX

DATE 14 MAY 1956

FORM NO. 610 1 APR 55 REPLACES FORM 51-10 WHICH MAY BE USED.

SECRET CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

14-00000

VIA AIR
(Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. HPK-A-4284

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief, NEA

DATE 5 May 1956

FROM Chief of Station, Karachi

SUBJECT GENERAL Operational/INTEL
SPECIFIC Far Eastern Association 8th Annual Meeting, Request for Background and Operational Information

1. The program of the 8th Annual Meeting of the Far Eastern Association, held in Philadelphia 3 - 5 April 1956, has just arrived here. It indicates that the association has already taken decided steps towards its announced expansion into the South Asian field. The station assumes that Headquarters covered the meeting and can get access now or later to copies of monographs, notes on proceedings, and so on.

2. The following items, keyed to the program, would seem to be of interest to this station if Headquarters can get them:

A. On 3 April, Zakye Eglar: "The World View of the Punjabi Villager".
(Note: This is quite likely the East Punjabi, but it should have some validity for Lahore as well as for Delhi.)

B. On the same day, a Pakistan Studies Organization Meeting was held at 1700. It would be useful to know who is interested in Pakistan studies (both individuals and organizations) and what lines they are thinking of working on.

C. On 5 April, all the items of a "South Asian Miscellany" should be of considerable interest, particularly Stanley Maron's "The Future of East Bengal". Hydecker has some early drafts of the Harold Isaacs study, but they are too early to provide any useful material; this project (at CENIS, MIT) is one that Headquarters should monitor closely, however.

NEIL R. HYDECKER

2 May 1956
NRH/wrg

Distribution:
5 - NEA
2 - Karachi

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 51-28A

RI COPY 78-62-21

14-00000

TOP SECRET

DEC 5, 1955

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: Fernando SEQUERRA, also known as Fernando [illegible] RCHES

1. Reference is made to a communication from this Agency dated 30 August 1955, captioned as above, our reference CS CI-2542.

2. Attached for your information is a copy of a letter written by subject and addressed to the post office box mentioned in the referenced memorandum. The letter was signed by subject as FELY, his feminine pseudonym. It should also be explained that English is not subject's native language; therefore, the grammar and spelling used by subject in his letters are to be expected.

3. This office interprets subject's letter as follows:

a. Aunt Josephine is Jose LANSANG, with whom subject has been in contact the past several months and who has been indoctrinating subject with leftist ideology. LANSANG has not admitted to subject that he is a Communist, although in his conversations with subject he sticks very close to the current line of the Philippine Communist Party (PKP).

b. Harold ISAACS (FBI File No. 100-286243) is well known to the Bureau.

c. Uncle MANUEL is probably the late Philippine President Manuel QUEZON, who sponsored Jose LANSANG's entry into the United States in 1937 when LANSANG studied at Columbia University. William CARTER, Jr. has not yet been identified by this office.

d. PAULILIO, fnu is probably Dr. Filadelfo PAULILIO, former Associate Professor of Mechanics at the University of the Philippines. PAULILIO received his BSME from the University of the Philippines and his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

[illegible]

[illegible] COPY OF [illegible] COPIES

TOP SECRET

201-18446

TOP SECRET



According to a usually reliable source of this Agency, PANLILIO was never able to completely readjust to Philippine life after having lived in the United States. He is known for his strong pro-American views and according to source probably his greatest desire is to reside permanently in the United States. Although it is known that PANLILIO was on friendly terms with Jose LANSANG there is no record that he shared LANSANG's political views.

e. Fr. [illegible] is probably Father DELANEY, Jesuit Chaplain at the University of the Philippines.

f. Cypros or Cyprus University may possibly be Syracuse University.

g. [illegible] is probably Ricardo LABEZ, Philippine newspaperman who was allegedly associated with Harry BRIDGES in the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) in Honolulu. LABEZ was born on 3 April 1915 in Manila; however, most of his life has been spent in Hawaii. He was naturalized a U.S. citizen in 19[illegible] and returned to the Philippines in 1949, where he lost his U.S. citizenship in 1952. There is no information in the files of this office which indicates that LABEZ has returned to Hawaii. For additional information concerning LABEZ, reference is made to a memorandum to the Bureau, dated 23 November 1949, subject: "Ricardo LABEZ (aka Ricardo LAVEZ)", our reference SO DB-20307.

h. Uncle [illegible] is Nor CUYUGAN, Uncle [illegible] is Baltazar CUYUGAN with whom the Bureau is familiar as a result of previous correspondence concerning his daughter, Carmen Jane CUYUGAN (FBI File No. 105-52561). From the wording of subject's letter this office assumes that Baltazar CUYUGAN is aware that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating Nor CUYUGAN. It also appears that Baltazar CUYUGAN gave subject a letter to deliver personally to his brother Nor CUYUGAN, possibly to avoid a mail intercept by the Bureau. It should be noted that subject stated that he mailed the letter instead.

4. In view of the sensitiveness of the source of the above information, it is requested that no further dissemination be made of the information without prior clearance with this Agency.

CS CI-2768
[illegible] (CUF-[illegible]), [illegible] September 1955
Attachment - A copy of a letter (To Addressee only)
[illegible]
Distribution:

COPY OF

TOP SECRET

201-188446

14-00000

FBI DOCUMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

DATE: 26 MAY 1955
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 (BUREAU)

DATE: 19 MAR 1954
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 (BUREAU

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

DATE: 27 JAN 54
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: LIU TSUN-CH'I (M) AKA
T.C. LIU, LAU CHIN-KI
FBI FILE #: 100-365280 (BUREAU)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| x LIU TSUN-CH'I | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-41745 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. DFB--30147 | | 4. DATE 24 Sept.53 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JP / 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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| xxxx | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Comments made by Francis McCracken Fisher

Fisher also recalled that sometime after the subject had gone over the Communists after 1950, he Fisher, met Harold Isaacs, a writer who formerly was a Trotskyte in His views, at which time Isaacs advised Fisher thaht he had known that subject was a Communist as early as the 1930's in Peking, China. Isaacs stated that the subjcet had worked for the Tass News Agency in Peking after having graduated form coleege and had evern bbeen sent to jaol due to his communist activies.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

FBI DOCUMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

DATE: 26 MAY 1953
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAAC
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 9 (BUREAU)

DATE: 18 FEB 53
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 (BUREAU)

DATE: 12 NOVE 52
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS
FBI FILE #: 100-286243 (BUREAU)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
|---|---|
| General Willoughby's Files - Documents Pertaining to Sorge, and the Shanghai Municipal Police Files | 2. RI FILE NO. 200-7-212-1 |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. RI Encl. 25 — 4. DATE 31 Oct 52 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM — 8. DATE OF INFO. — 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST Diana Chenevien — 6. DATE PROCESSED 29 Sept 65 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN — 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS-REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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| | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Shanghai MP, Special Branch, S-2, report of interception of propaganda-type letter to Harold R. ISAACS and of Volume 3, No. 16, 31 Oct 32 Issue of "The Chinese Worker's Correspondence" addressed to the China Forum.

15.

FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-814467

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(7-46)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | |
|---|---|---|
| General Willoughby's Files - Documents Pertaining to Richard Sorge and the Shanghai Municipal Police Files | 2. RI FILE NO. 200-7-212-1 | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. R1 Encl. 23 | 4. DATE 31 Oct 52 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. / 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST Eleanor Oberimer / 6. DATE PROCESSED 29 Oct 64 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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| | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Photo copy of Special Edition of China Forum called "Five years of Kuomintang Reaction" plus correspondence concerning it.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-12446 *

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
| --- | --- |
| General Willoughby's Files — Documents Pertaining to Richard Sorge, and the Shanghai Municipal Police File | 2. RI FILE NO. 200- 7- 212 -1 |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. RI Encl. 18 — 4. DATE 31 Oct 52 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM — 8. DATE OF INFO. — 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST Diann Sherwood — 6. DATE PROCESSED 29 Sept 65 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN — 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14. ~~Shanghai Municipal Police Report.~~
Report by D.I. Ross 19 April 34.
CWC, Vol. 4, No. 13, 13.4.34
Addressed: Mr. H.R. ISAACS, Embankment Building, North Soochow Road, Local

forwarded extracts of Chinese Workers Correspondence relating to labour disputes in Shanghai during March 1934 —

The publication which was obtained from a confidential source was delivered through the post, addressed to ISAACS as above.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➔ 201-18446

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

FBI REPORT
DATE: 6 OCTOBER 1952
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: JOHN KING FAIRBANK
FBI FILE #: 77-24341 (BUREAU)

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SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Willoughby's Files - Documents Pertaining to Richard Sorge, and the Shanghai Municipal Police Files | 1. RI FILE NO. 200-7-212-1 | | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. RI Encl. 8 | | 4. DATE 31 Oct 52 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION | |
| 5. ANALYST Susan Chemicon | 6. DATE PROCESSED 29 Sept 65 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE | |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Photographic copies of letters from Willi MUENZENBERG to ISAACS regarding International Committee for defense of Paul + Gertrude RUEGG.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446X

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

FBI REPORT
DATE: 26 MAY 1952
CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJ: GEORGE HERRING, WAS:
RING, PAUL RUEGG
FBI FILE #: 100-344906 (BUREAU)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gunther Bruno Oswald STEIN | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-391-57 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. HKB-17243 | 4. DATE 14 Apr. 52 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM encl. 1 | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST [illegible] | 6. DATE PROCESSED 2 Oct 65 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

H. R. ISAACS, and others, among American newspaper correspondents in Shanghai around 1930 to 1932.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➔ 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
|---|---|
| Agnes Smedley, was. | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-414 |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. DFB-16151 — 4. DATE 5 Mar. 52 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM — 8. DATE OF INFO. — 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST jep — 6. DATE PROCESSED 21 Nov. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN — 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE XXX | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

h

According to cojfidential informant T-17, of unkomwn reliability, Agnes smedley attempted to ovtain from the American Express Co. in Shahghai certain mail addressed to Harold R. Isaacs while Isaacs was avsent from the city. One of the return addresses on this mail was Smith and Isaacs, 344 East 149th Streed Bonnx , New York. Harold R. Isaacs, mention above, was identified by T 17 as an American Journalist of Communist sympathies who resised in Shahghai in the Early thirties.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➡ 201-18446

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AGNES SMEDLEY, | 1. RI FILE NO. 201-414 | | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. DFB-16129 | | 4. DATE 14 Feb. 52 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION | |
| 5. ANALYST JEP | 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE | |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Subject of the document is mentioned as having visited the residence of Harold R. XXXXXXX Isaacs and C. ?R Frmank Glass, two notorious local Commmunits sympathisers.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➔ 201-18446.

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

FBI REPORT
DATE: 31 JAN. 52
CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJ: TILLMAN, DURDIN
FBI FILE #: 105-15218 (BUREAU)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IDA FRANCES TREAT BERGERET | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-[illegible] 6205 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. DFB-24411 | 4. DATE 12 Feb. 52 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JEP / 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE | |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14. Subject remembers meetint HAROLD R. ISAACS, an American Jounnalist, at a party at the home of Madame SUN YAT SEN.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➔ 201-18446

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED FREE

# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS.—Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

NO. DCE 4385

DATE

| TO— | ROOM NO. | DATE RECEIVED | DATE FORWARDED | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. etc | 1603 | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. FE/50 | | | | | |
| 4. China | | | 29 Feb | | routed |
| 5. | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | |
| 7. | | | | | |
| 8. | | | | | |
| 9. STC/SIB | | MAR 10 1952 | | | CONSOLIDATION EFFECTED BY |
| 10. | | | | | |
| 11. STC/ICB | | | | | |
| 12. | | | | | |
| 13. | | | | | |
| 14. | | | | | |
| 15. R.I | | | | | |

FORM 51-9 FREE RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL

14-00000

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, St [illegible], OSO
Attn: Mr. [illegible]

DATE: 7 February 1952

FROM : Chief, Contact Division, OO

SUBJECT: CS Information—Pro-Communist Sentiment of US Nationals in China

1. Enclosed is a copy of an article prepared for publication in the Christian Science Monitor by a former editor of the Shanghai English-language newspaper. It has not yet been published and probably will not be published because of its length.

for E. W. A[illegible]

ENCLOSURE (A) as listed above.

INDEX

COPY

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CONFIDENTIAL    DCL 4305

SECURITY INFORMATION

1. A happy ending has been written in the case of Morris L. Appelman, former Communist who is now secretary of the General Rose Memorial Hospital of Denver. He has been praised in Washington for "disclosing his Communist past", and his board of directors has voted confidence in him and continued him in his job.

2. No doubt all this is fitting and proper but it doesn't answer the question of why nobody in Denver seems to have known anything about Appelman's Red-tinged past, or why there was anything sensational about his revelation of it in Washington. While the police state is rightly anathema to American citizens, it seems remarkable that official records should not be in existence and reasonably accessible to people with reason to check up on such a point as past Communist service.

3. The point about Appelman is not that he did anything particularly reprehensible, but that what he did was quite in the open. According to the Washington testimony he served the Communist party, apparently without special concealment, in Russia, Germany and other points in Europe, going around the world between 1924 and 1938. He sought to relieve Max and Grace Granich in the editorship of a Shanghai English-language Communist magazine, "The Voice of China", in 1937, he testified, but didn't get off his ship in Shanghai because of the hostilities there at the time.

4. This sheds something of a light on the supposedly fearless and ruthless Communist operations throughout the world. I was in Shanghai when fighting broke out there between Japan and China on Aug. 13, 1937, and can testify that we had three months of ding-dong warfare before the campaign moved inland. During that period a good many people left for obvious reasons, but some came in, and it might be presumed that an accredited agent of international Communism would at least have paused in nearby Kobe or Hongkong till things calmed down a little. Possibly the Communists are as subject to qualms about personal safety as anyone else—or more so.

5. About "The Voice of China" there could hardly be any illusion in the mind of anyone who had cared to pay the slightest attention to it. Each issue bore a virtual advertisement of its Communist allegiance on its front cover, to those familiar with methods of converting Chinese into English. The name "Voice of China" appeared in both English and Chinese, and in the Chinese a peculiar Soviet-originated system of Romanization was used so that what is ordinarily, by conventional Wade system, written "Chung Hwa" for China was spelled "Chung Xua"— an extraordinary effect frankly explaining the publication's ownership.

6. But what was more, Harold Isaacs, the editor who preceded the Granichs, had done considerably more than was conveyed by press dispatches from the Washington hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee. These said he was "believed to have deviated from Communist policy" whereas in fact he challenged with the Chinese Communists and their Moscow patrons

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completely with an article headed "I Break With Stalinism." This gave a candid elucidation of the Communist financial backing of the "Voice of China" and if anyone either in or out of official life had previously suffered any illusions as to its nature, Isaacs' article—published elsewhere than in the "Voice", of course—certainly should have dispelled them.

7. The Granichs seem to have lived quietly in Shanghai and were little known, which under the circumstances was hardly surprising since they were running an obviously Communist organ. Chiang Kai-shek's forces could not meddle with them openly, for at that time Shanghai was an international city operated under extraterritoriality. But the Nationalist secret police did create some trouble for the "Voice" and then Consul-General Clarence E. Gauss was allegedly reprimanded by the State Department in 1937 for not doing more to help them as Americans. Technically they were entitled to full American protection but Gauss, now with the Import-Export Bank in Washington, D. C., was a sort of Old Curmudgeon of the Shanghai American community and it seems that he thought it his moral obligation to let them fry in any trouble they might get into as Communist agents. Gauss can't have suffered greatly for this in the eyes of his superiors, for he was later promoted to ambassador both to China and to Australia.

8. This background has some present importance since an American magazine is being operated today in Communist Shanghai, which tolerates no criticism or opposition. Originally pro-Nationalist under the late J. B. Powell, it has been friendly toward the Communists under his son, John William Powell, and it stayed on after most other American enterprises—including the daily Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, edited by myself—had shut down and American officials had left Red China.

9. Before they departed, these officials had reason to compile an extensive file on what is now the China Monthly Review. One incident which is known to have irked them was the Review's treatment of the case of William Olive, American consular official, in the summer of 1949 soon after the Communists had taken over. Olive blundered into a traffic conflict with the Communist police, was taken to first one and then a second police station, and in the course of several days' imprisonment he was severely beaten with fists and gunbutts, kicked and otherwise maltreated. Powell's Review blandly professed to have little information on the matter but gave an account unfavorable to Olive. When consular officials asked Powell to come to the consulate and look Olive over and get the full story, he failed to show up. This and other matters were recorded in some detail but in view of the background of American intelligence operation, one may question whether these details will ever be hauled out of the files.

10. More recently, copies of the Review have been slanted strongly against the Americans and the United Nations cause in Korea and one issue editorially spoke of the United States as "the enemy." It should not be difficult to preserve continuity in following such a case of American pro-Communist activity abroad, though nothing could be done to Powell unless

CONFIDENTIAL DCE 4385
SECURITY INFORMATION

or until he decided to return to his own country—and even then, the complex nature of American laws on this general subject make it hard to tell what could be done aside from perhaps denying another passport to go abroad again.

11. The important thing, as shown by a long list of cases gravely investigated by congressional committees, is to have the postwar Central Intelligence Agency or some comparable group such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation keep track of the wealth of information available. Too much waste effort goes into the many duplications of inquiry.

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL                DCE 4355

SECURITY INFORMATION

Chief, St ff C, CO
  Attn: Miss Jane Winslow
Chief, Contact Division, CO

7 February 1952

CS Information--Pro-Communist Sentiment of US Nationals in China

1. Enclosed is a copy of an article prepared for publication in the Christian Science Monitor by a former editor of the Shanghai English-language newspaper. It has not yet been published and probably will not be published because of its length.

S. M. ASHCRAFT

ENCLOSURE (A) as listed above.

COPY

[illegible]-109

CONFIDENTIAL

14-00000

# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DISPATCH NO. LJTA-

VIA: Air
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 6 February 1952

TO : Chief of Mission, FEU/FES

FROM : Chief, FE

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Counter-espionage

SPECIFIC- Transmittal of CE Study on "The NOULENS Case"

Attachments (1) Subject CE Study (4 copies)

The attached study entitled "The NOULENS Case", compiled by our CE office, is forwarded for your information and for retention in your CE files.

COPY

BERNHARD VON AMMON

Originator: John L. Witzleben

RELEASING OFFICER
LLOYD GEORGE
Chief, FE

COORDINATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER
John Chrislaw
FE/B/SO

17891

FORM NO. 51-28
JUN 1949

14-00000

ZCS 1811, Shanghai Muncipal Files, filed 16-4-2-37

ISAACS, Harold Robert

Born 13 Sept 1910, NYC
Nat'l American

DESCRIPTION
Height 5'9"
Build medium
Hair black, wavy, brushed back
Eyes brown

DOCUMENTATION
In 30s was traveling on passport # 177026

Arrived in China from Manila on 10 Dec 1930
Upon his arrival joined the editorial staff of the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury.

Was a secretary of the NOULENS Defense Commitee and a member of the Society of Friends of the USSR

On 12 June 1931, ISAACS and his friend GLASS took a trip up the Yangtse. During this trip ISAACS wrote his fiancee, Viola ROBINSON, that he had decided to turn " Red" as a result of conversations with GLASS.

The two returned to Shanghai in Aug 1931 and took up residence at # 128 Weihaiwei Road.

ISAACS later started and became the editor and publisher of the " China Forum" which at first was job-printed but from Oct 1932 on was printed by the Level Publishing Co. INC., # 39, Lane 478 Tiendong Road, Shanghai. ISAACS openedly stated he was manager of the printing co and owned 40% of its shares.
On 7 Aug 1933, ISAACS and his wife Viola ROBINSON whom he had married in Sept 1932 left Shanghai for Japan on the SS Nagasaki Maru. On 16 Aug, they proceeded to Japan, returning to Shanghai on Aug 26th.

Inaddition to his other activities, ISAACS was also employed with the Havas News Agency. He severed connection with this Agency around Dec 1933.

In Dec 1933, ISAACS was in Foochow to gather 1st hand info re the newly formed "Peolple's Revolutionary Government of the Republic of China."

In the spring of 1934, ISAACS and his wife left for Tientsin en route to Peking at which city he resided at # 2 T'ung Fu Chia Tao, East City. Peking mailing address was % Mr. UHLMANN, Grand Hotel.

On 3 January 1934, ISAACS visited Mr and Mrs. NOULENS while they were on a hunger strike in prison

On 14 January 1934, the parents of ISAACS, Mr and Mrs I.H. ISAACS arrived in Shanghai from Los Angeles. During their stay in Shanghai they resided at the Metropol Hotel Annex. On 20 February they left Shanghai for Port Said en route to Marseilles on the SS Rawalpindi.

On 4 April 1936, ISAACS under the pen name of Lo Sen had an article published in the New Militant, the organ of the NY District Worker's Party. The article was an attack on Stalin and was entitled " Stalintern ready to embrace Chian Kai Shek. Officer Chinese Red Army in return for resurrection of disasterous 1927 bloc!" At this same time, ISAACS was also lecturing on Japan, China, and the USSR and the War Crisis in the Far East.

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5 Jul 49

GLASS

1. Shanghai Muni Polic e Files, filed, 16-4-2- 37, p 2

In Shanghai GLASS made the acquaintance of one Damaree C.B333, American from Kansas City, born 1893.This was some time after April 1932.

Name C.F. GLASS = Cecil Frank GLASS

Born 25 March 1901, Birmingham,England

Passport British passport, # 94153, issued 5 Jan 1931 in Pretoria,South Africa

Pol Affiliation-Member of the CP

Overt Professiom-Journalist

Believed to have left England in the early 1920s for South Africa where he resided at Johannesburg for many years.

Arrived in Shangai from Durham May 1931

On 12 June 1931 made a trip through up the Yangstee Yangtsze with Harold ISAACS American Communist and writer for the editor of the China Forum. A letter written by ISAACS to his fiancee, Miss Viola ROBINSON, during this trip contained information that ISAACS had decided to turn " Red" as a result of his conversation with GLASS.

In Sept 1931, GLASS became a member of the "NOULENS Defense Committee" and two months later was appointed Shanghai Representative of the Anglo-Asiatic Telegraph Agency(Angasta) a news agency with HQ in Harbin, which position he held until 1933.

In Aug1933, he was living in Room 510,# 1276,North Szechuen Road,Shanghai

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ECS 1611; Shanghai Municpal Files, file: 16-4-2-37

ROBINSON, Viola
@ MRS. H.R. ISAACS

Born 10 July 1910, NYC
Nat'l American

Description
Height 5'5"
Build slim
Complx fair

Documentation
In 1932 holder of US passport # 382046 issued NYC 14 May 1931

History
In 1931 known to have visited Germany

Known Communist and follower of Lucy STONE

Arrived in Shanghai on 23 Aug 1932

14 Sept 1932 married Harold Robert ISAACS. She had been engaged to ISAACS for some years before her arrival in China, and it has been stated that the letters between the two indicated that Communist sympathies on the part of both and of ISAACS' intention of joining the CP

After her arrival in China was employed at the Dah Chung Middle School, Shanghai as a teacher.

She lived in the Embankment Building Bldg, North Soochow Road

On 7 August 1933, the ISAACS left Shanghai for Japan and on 16 Aug 1933 proceeded to Dairen, returning to Shanghai by rail on 26 August 1933.

In Nov 1933, info was received to the effect that Miss ROBINSON was a teacher at the Comparative Law School, Shanghai.

AUG 14 1951

Harold Robert ISAACS with aliases

LO SAN ( penname used in China)

Harold Robert ISAACS was born in New York City on 13 September 1910 of American parents. His father has been reported as " decidedly of the commercial type." ISAACS has been described as intelligent, critical, ~~nervous~~ and nervously organized.

Little is known concerning the activities of ISAACS prior to his arrival in China from Manila on 10 December 1930; however, MR. I. H. ISAACS who visited ISAACS ~~in~~ January + February 1931 date in Shanghai, is reported to have embarrassed his son in the presence of friends by " kidding" the latter about trying to make money on real estate while in Los Angeles before going to China.

The actual date when Cecil Frank GLASS and Harold ISAACS met is not known, but it must have been shortly after the arrival of GLASS in Shanghai in May 1931, for in June 1931, ISAACS and GLASS made a trip up the Yangtsze together.

It has been stated that ISAACS became interested in Communism with specific relation to China, but letters written by ISAACS to his fiancee, Viola ROBINSON, ~~are stated to~~ on his trip with GLASS, ~~are stated to indicate~~ it has been stated that

It has been stated that ISAACS became interested in Communism in specific relation to China; it has also been stated that letters between ISAACS and his fiance, Viola ROBINSON, which were written during the Yangtsze trip indicated Communist sympathies on the part of both, and one of the letters contained the information that ISAACS had decided to turn " Red" as a result of his conversations with GLASS. As you are aware, ISAACS and GLASS returned to Shanghai in August 1931 and took up residence at 128 Weihaiwei Road. In September 1931, both men are reported to have become members of the NOULENS Defense Committee, ISAACS being the Secretary.

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ISAACS is also reported to have been a member of the Society of Friends of the USSR.

Upon his arrival in China, ISAACS joined the editorial staff of the Shanghai Evening Post and the Mercury. ISAACS was also employed with the Havas News Agency, which connection he is reported to have severed around December 1933.

ISAACS also started and later became editor and published of the " China Forum." It is believed to have been ~~It was~~ a monthly English language paper issued at first as a commercial job from the Mercury Press. From October 1932 on it was printed by the Level Publishing Company Inc., 33, Lane A78, Tiendong Road. ISAACS is reported to have openly stated that he was manager of the pringting company, owing 40% of the shares.

It has been stated that those who knew ISAACS in Shanghai found no reason to think he was a " pay off" man for American Communists, and that during the first part of his stay in China, he was not a follower of Trotsky. However, he is reported to have finally become convinced that the tatics of the Chinese Communists were wrong and that Trotsky was right in criticising them, and the Soviet Government under Stalin. He therefore wrote an article entitled, " I Break with ~~Stalin~~ the Stalinists," in which among other things, he is reported to have stated that the expense of publishing the magazine had been borned by the Chinese Communists. He is then reported to have discontinued the magazine and to have sold the printing equipment, the sum being realized from the sale not being turned back to the Chinese Communists but to have been given to the Trotsky cause.

ISAACS had been engaged for several years to Viola ROBINSON who arrived in Shanghai on 28 August 1932. On 14 September 1932, she and ISAACS were married and took up residence in Apt 204, the ~~the~~ Embankment Building on North Soochow Road. Prior to the fall of 1933, Irene WEITEMEYER or WEIDEMEYER ~~of the~~ a subject in the SORGE Case is reported to have lived in the Embankment Building with one Reneo HOLZEL. Rold AUDOUARD and his wife who have been reported as Soviet sympathizers and ~~were~~ who were known to have

been in close contact with E E KISCH when the latter was in China also lived in this building in the early 1930s in Apartment 509.

After her arrival in China, Viola ROBINSON ISAACS was employed at the Dah Chung Middle School, and by November 1933 was reported as a teacher at the Comparative Law School in Shanghai.

On 7 August 1933, the ISAACS left Shanghai for Japan, and on 16 August 1933 proceeded to Dairen, returning to Shanghai by rail on 26 August 1933. In ~~November~~ December 1933 ISAACS left Shanghai for Foochow to gather first hand information on the newly formed "People's Revolutionary Government of the Republic of China." [redacted]

In January 1934, ISAACS is reported to have visited Mr. and Mrs. NOULENS while they were on a hunger strike in prison. In the spring of 1934, ISAACS and his wife left for Peintain en route to Peking at which city, they resided at 2 Tsung Fu Chia Tao, East City. His mailing address was % of one Mr. UEBMANN, Grand Hotel, Peking.

As has been set out heretofore, ISAACS is reported to have turned against the Stalinist Government of the USSR, becoming a Trotskyite. During this period he wrote the "Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution," allegedly as a single gesture of interpretation and protest to show how, in his opinion, both the Kuomintang and the Communists had gone wrong in China. Also in April 1936, under the pen name of Lo Sen, ISAACS had an article published in the "New Militant," the organ of the NY District Worker's Party. The article was reportedly an attack on Stalin and was entitled, "Stalintern ready to embrace Chiang Kai Shek. C.P. Officer Chinese Red Army in Return for resurrection of disasterous 1927 bloc."

14-00000

It has been stated by friends of ISAACS even during the height of his Trotskyist career, he never accepted money from any group; that he was open and above board; and that he never engaged in any conspiracies to overthrow established government. They are also reported to have stated that ISAACS was attracted to Communism by "sheer idealism."

It has been further reported that immediately after Pearl Harbor, ISAACS broke with the Trotskyite group as he had broken with the Communists, and began writing propaganda for the United States Government.

Sometime in the late 1930s, ISAACS returned to the United States. ~~By the fall~~ Until the fall of France, he was employed by the Havas News Agency. In October 1943, of 1943, he was working for Newsweek Magazine in Washington, D.C. His address at that time was Friendship Heights, Newport Ave., 4938.

By late 1944 or early 1945, ISAACS was in Chungking as a representative of Newsweek. During this period, he had a great deal of trouble about censorship, and reportedly was denied permission to visit Communist areas. It has been stated that actually he was merely unfortunate in that he applied just after the government had restored its ban on journalistic travel in that direction. At the time he had was denied permission, "Teddy" WHITE of Time had just been allowed to go, and ISAACS felt that he was being discriminated against. It has been stated that WHITE, upon his return gave such a good account of administration in the Red areas that this, added to othe similar experiences, solidified the government's determination no to let any more American newspapermen "go up and become Communist converts." In March 1945, ISAACS was reported as about to leave Chungking permanently.

The following descriptions of Harold and Viola ISAACS are set out for your information:

14-00000

| | Harold ISAACS | Viola R. ISAACS |
|---|---|---|
| Born | 10 July 1910, NYC | 13 Sept., 1910, NYC |
| Nat'l | American | American |
| Height | 5'9" | 5'5" |
| Build | medium | slim |
| Hair | black, wavy, brushed back | |
| Eyes | brown | |
| Complx | | fair |
| Passports in early 1930s | US Passport # 177026 | US passport # 382046, issued NYC 14 May 1931 |

In addition to Agnes SMEDLEY and Frank GLASS, ISAACS is known to have been in contact with the following while in China :

William DURDIN. For a time during his stay in China, ISAACS is reported to have lived with DURDIN, then correspondent of the NY Times and at one time, managing editor of "China Press."

John K. MURRAY, Shanghai representative of the Pacific News Agency in Vancouver. MURRAY is also known to have been in contact with E.E. KISCH, Agnes SMEDLEY, Irene WEIDEMEYER or WEIDEMEYER and one W. ROVER during his stay in China.

AUG 14 19..

INFORMATION ...

ISAACS

PUBLICATIONS

Wrote an article entitled " I Break with the Stalinists" in which allegedly among other things, that the expenses of publishing a magazine which he was putting out had been borned by the Chinese Communists.

At one time, ISAACS published a monthly English language magazine, issued first as a commercial joy(sic) from the Mercury Press and later printed from a small printing outfit purchased by ISAACS. It has been stated that after publishing the article "I Break with the Stalinists," ISAACS discontinued the magazine and sold its printing equipment. It has been stated that the small sum realised from the sale was not turned back to the Chinese Communists but was turned over to the Trotsky Cause.

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | |
|---|---|---|
| Irene Emma Ada WEITEMEYER | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-18446-1 | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. LCPB-14423 | 4. DATE 20 Dec 51 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM 18.5 | 8. DATE OF INFO. / 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST ms | 6. DATE PROCESSED 20 Oct 65 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN / 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE

13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO.

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14. In Sept. 1931 it was reported that an 'Aid Committee to the Secretary of the Pan Pacific Trades Union Secretariat (Noulens) had been formed in Shanghai, and that in addition to WEITEMEYER its members included HAROLD ISAACS and others, - all well known local radical journalists.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(7-46)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexander Hassler Buchman | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-67533 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SODB-45339 | | 4. DATE d 5 Dec. 51 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST James . Plaugher | 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| XXX | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

1. Reference is made to previous correspondence concerning the captiondd subject and in particular to your communication of 10 July 51, your file number 105—11929 in which it was requested that Tilman Durdin be interviewed regarding his knowledge of the backgound, beliefs and ~~xx~~ activities of the individuals named below. Durdin, who travels continously and extensively in the Far East, was finally located in Djakarta Indonesia, and on 14 Nov. 51 was interviewed, in accordance eith your request, and the following information elicited.

2. Durdin stated he knew nothing definite regarding the present activities and alleded communist connection of Frans Joseph WEISBLATT, Harold ISAACS, Frans GLASS, ALEXANDER BASSLER BUCHMAN and George Alexander Kennedy, and that he could furniah info on their early activities only.

~~3XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

3. DURDIN said that he knows Harold Isaacs well and that he last saw him at the conference in Baguido in the Philippines, which was held in November 1947. He stated that ~~IXXXXS~~ ISAACS was formerly with NEWSWEEK but that he now believes he is a gree lance lecturer and writer. He gave his opinion that Isaaxs, althought left wing, is not necessarily a communist.

15.

FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➡ 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(7-46)

14-00000

FBI REPORT
DATE: 5 DEC. 51
CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJ: PAUL RUEGG, WAS: HILAIRE NOULENS, AND OTHERS
FBI FILE #: 100-344906 (BUREAU)

[illegible]

INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**SECRET**

Page No.

From: [illegible]

To: [illegible] 15 NOV 51

Action: [illegible] IN 40810

Information: [illegible]

Paraphrase Not Required. Handle as SECRET Correspondence per Para. 51(1) of [illegible]

JAKA-528

[illegible]

[illegible] (OUT [illegible]393 [illegible]).

[illegible] SUBJECT VISITED [illegible] OFFICE [illegible]

ACCORDING APPROACH PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON. SUBJECT QUITE [illegible] [illegible] ABOUT THESE PERSONS EARLY ACTIVITIES [illegible] THEIR PRESENT ACTIVITIES AND [illegible]

[illegible] HAD ONLY HAZY RECOLLECTION MEETING WEISBLATT [illegible] ABOUT 193 (AS RECEIVED). DID NOT LIVE WITH WEISBLATT ALTHO POSSIBLY OCCUPIED SAME BACHELORS MESS SHORT PERIOD. NO INFO [illegible] [illegible]. SUBJECT KNOWS ISAACS WELL. SAW HIM LAST [illegible] 1950, [illegible] WITH NEWSWEEK BUT BELIEVES ISAACS [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

SECRET

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE

[illegible] YEAR OLD [illegible]

[illegible] LATE 30'S [illegible]

[illegible] ATION LOS ANGELES. [illegible]

[illegible] INVESTIGATORS. SUBJECT BELIEVES [illegible]

[illegible] SYMPATHIES [illegible] HAVE HAD [illegible]

[illegible] YALE UNIVERSITY AS [illegible]

[illegible] PEKING ABOUT 1946. [illegible]

[illegible] SHANGHAI DURING 30'S BUT SUBJECT KNOWS

[illegible] HIS [illegible] IDEOLOGY.

[illegible] SECRET

14-00000

COPY

SECRET

7 November 1951

Assistant Director for Policy Coordination
Attention: Security Officer
Chief, Special Security Division

Harold R. Isaacs

1. Reference is made to a memorandum from your office dated 3 July 1951 in which you requested that a Special Inquiry be conducted to resolve information concerning an allegation that Subject is sympathetic to and/or connected with Communist activities.

2. On 31 August 1951, Mr. Kenneth Patrum of the Security Office was advised that partial results have been received as a result of inquiries at several national agencies. The partial information reflected that Subject had been connected with at least two factions of the Communist Party while living in the Far East. It was suggested that extreme caution be used in contacting or associating with the Subject.

3. This office has completed the investigation of the Subject, which includes a check of records of the appropriate Federal agencies. As a result of this investigation, the files of this office contain a great deal of information concerning Subject's association with questionable organizations and individuals. Although Subject has denied any current activities with the Communist Party, his associations and activities are highly questionable and his political sympathy has not been unqualifiedly resolved at the present time.

4. In view of the information as set forth above, it is recommended that extreme caution be exercised in dealing with the Subject. Under no circumstances should Subject be contacted with regard to possible use by this agency prior to receiving a final security determination by this office.

FOR THE SECURITY OFFICER, CIA

ROBERT H. CUNNINGHAM

SECRET

# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR

DISPATCH NO. [illegible] 1100

CLASSIFICATION

TO: [redacted] Chief of Station, Hong Kong

DATE: 25 September 1951

FROM: Chief, Foreign Division B

SUBJECT: GENERAL: [illegible] Information

SPECIFIC: Request for Inter[redacted]lman Durdin.

1. In connection with a current investigation, [illegible] has requested that Tillman Durdin be interviewed along the lines set out below. It is requested that if Durdin is not now in Hong Kong or is not expected to be there for some time you advise headquarters so that a copy of this dispatch can be sent to the proper station. It is not deemed desirable for you or any member of your staff to undertake this interview personally. It is suggested, therefore, that a precis of this dispatch be made available to a suitable [illegible] officer (a representative of the [illegible] Security Office, if one is available), and that he interview Durdin and inform you of the results.

2. A reliable [illegible] informant has stated that in 1933 Durdin was in Shanghai, acting as city editor of the "China Press." At that time he was said to have shared an apartment with Frank Joseph [illegible], who is described as an American citizen then in China as a news reporter. According to the informant, [illegible] was at that time a close associate of Harold ISAACS, who was said to have been employed in Shanghai in 1933 as editor of the "China Forum", described as a Communist publication. A [illegible] source of unknown reliability has stated that in 1933 ISAACS was a "notorious radical sympathizer" and was suspected of being an agent for the Third International.

3. In 1949, [illegible] representatives interviewed one Harris Louis A[illegible] in Denver, Colorado. A[illegible] admitted having been a CP member from 1924 to 1937. He stated that in 1933 and 1934 he [illegible] Durdin in Shanghai, and that during that period, he, Harold ISAACS, Frank [illegible] and Alexander B[illegible], frequently held meetings at the home of Tillman Durdin in Shanghai. Frank GLASS is a British subject presently living in Los Angeles. B[illegible] is an American who also lives in Los Angeles. A[illegible] described ISAACS and GLASS as Trotskyites in 1933-34, and described B[illegible] as a former member of the Communist Youth League in the U.S. A [illegible] informant of unknown reliability has reported that during that period GLASS and ISAACS were suspected of being

RELEASING OFFICER: LLOYD GEORGE, CHIEF, [illegible]

COORDINATING OFFICER

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER: GEORGE W. MALLORY

CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 51-28

agents for the Third International in Shanghai.

4. In addition to the above individuals, Durdin is also reported to have been an acquaintance in Shanghai about 1932-33 of George Alexander KENNEDY, who is presently employed at Yale University. KENNEDY was an acquaintance of ISAACS and was also reported to have been associated with "Left-wing groups" [illegible]hanghai at that time.

5. In view of the above ZASSRAPE desires that Durdin be interviewed as soon as possible relative to the [illegible]'s acquaintance and association with: WEISBLATT, ISAACS, GLASS, BUCH[illegible]KENNEDY. Durdin is requested to comment particularly concerning any act[illegible] these individuals on behalf of the CP or the Third International, [illegible] any may have been engaged in espionage activities on behalf of the Soviet Union, either during the early 1930's in China, or at any subsequent period.

GEORGE W. MALLORY

14-00000

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. 105-15219

CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

DFB-11880
201-6556
Sept 14 1951

Date: September 11, 1951

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Major General W. G. Wyman
Office of Special Operations

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: TILLMAN DURDIN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

In connection with an official investigation being conducted by this Bureau, we are desirous of obtaining certain information from Mr. Tillman Durdin, who is presently located c/o Hong Kong, Tiger Standard, 108 Windsor House, Victoria, Hong Kong. It would be appreciated if you would have one of your representatives interview Mr. Durdin in Hong Kong along the lines set out below.

For your information, Durdin is a foreign correspondent for the New York Times newspaper. He is an American citizen born March 30, 1907, at Elkhart, Texas, and has been employed as a foreign correspondent for the New York Times for many years, possibly since at least the early 1930's.

A reliable informant has advised that in 1939 Durdin was in Shanghai, China, acting as City Editor of the newspaper "China Press." At that time Durdin was said to be sharing an apartment with Franz Joseph Weisblatt, described as an American citizen then in China as a newspaper reporter.

According to our informant, Weisblatt was at that time a close associate of one Harold Isaacs. Isaacs, an American citizen presently living in New York City, was said by our informant to have been employed

in Shanghai in 1933 as Editor of the "China Forum," described as a Communist publication. A source of unknown reliability has stated that in 1933 Isaacs was a "notorious radical sympathizer" and was suspected of being an agent of the Third International. Isaacs was said to have organized the Shanghai Committee for the Defense of the Ruegas. Paul and Gertrude Ruegg were convicted in China in 1932 for Russian espionage activities.

In March, 1949 [redacted] this Bureau interviewed one Morris Louis Appleman, an American citizen presently living in Denver, Colorado, and Appleman admitted having been a member of the Communist Party from 1924 to 1937. Appleman stated that in 1933 and 1934 he knew Durdin in Shanghai, and that during that period, he, Appleman, Harold Isaacs, Frank Glass and Alexander Buchman, frequently held meetings at the home of Tillman Durdin in Shanghai.

Frank Glass is a British citizen presently living in Los Angeles, California. Buchman is an American citizen also presently living in Los Angeles. Morris Appleman described Isaacs and Glass as Trotskyites in 1933-34, and described Buchman as a former member of the Communist Youth League in the United States. An informant of unknown reliability has also reported that during that period Glass and Isaacs were suspected of being agents for the Third International in Shanghai.

In addition to the above individuals, Durdin is also reported to have been an acquaintance in Shanghai in about 1932-33 of George Alexander Kennedy, an American citizen presently employed at Yale University. Kennedy was an acquaintance of Harold Isaacs at that time, and was also reported to have been associated with "left-wing groups" in Shanghai at that time.

In view of the information indicating that Mr. Durdin was acquainted with these individuals during the early 1930's, it is desired that he be interviewed relative to the extent of his acquaintance and association with the following: Franz Joseph Weinblatt, Harold Isaacs, Frank Glass, Alexander Buchman, and George Alexander Kennedy.

It is requested that Durdin be questioned particularly as to any information he may possess concerning any activities of these individuals on behalf of the Communist Party or the Third International. Durdin should also be asked whether he has any information indicating any of these individuals may have engaged in espionage activities on behalf of the Soviet Union, either during the early 1930's in China or at any subsequent period. It is desired that full details be obtained from

Mr. Durlin relative to any information he may furnish concerning possible subversive activities on the part of any of these individuals.

It would be appreciated if you would endeavor to have Mr. Durlin interviewed at the earliest possible date.

SECRET

# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET 2 Aug 51

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: IR

NO. 2FK-89

DATE

| TO | ROOM NO. | DATE REC'D | DATE FWD'D | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. FDZ | 2006 | [illegible] 51 | | J | Logged |
| 2. REPORTS | | | | MR | COPY RET[illegible] FDZ/DR.2 |
| 3. B-2 | | | | JC | |
| 4. Connell | | 7 Aug | 7 Aug | J | |
| 5. | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | |
| 7. W. Morris | | | | WM | No Dissem - inaccurate Paris queried re recent whereabout Figueres. |
| 8. | | | | | |
| 9. | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | Xref filed 10-4-21-6 |
| 11. | | | | | |
| 12. | | | | | 201-184416 |
| 13. | | | | | |
| 14. | | | | | INTELLIGENCE RI/16 Aug 51 RECORDS |
| 15. IR | 1409 | | | | ABSTRACT — INDEX |

FORM NO. 51-10 FEB 1950

SECRET

14-00000

SECRET

From: Hanoi

No. of pages: 1

Report Made by Walter J. Ingold

Distribution: None

Source Cryptonym: Tunic-2

Report No.: ZFH-89

Enclosures: None

Approved by James M. Lanier

Reference: HANO 242 and WASH 01125

Remarks:

1. In our last message to Tunic-2 on 30 July we used the discrepancy concerning Leo Figueres' visit to NVN as an example in a gentle lecture on the virtues of accurate reporting. By 1 August Tunic-2 answered back. The man obviously takes pride in his work.

2. An ops comment relating to this report will be sent in another pouch or via cable.

SECRET

201-1177-3

HQ COPY

SECRET

Subject: Leo Figueres

Report No.: ZFH-89

Date of Info: as indicated

Place Acquired: Viet Nam, Hanoi

Date Acquired: 1 August 51

Evaluation: B-3

Date of Report: 2 August 51

Source:

1. According to Hoang Nui, who works in the Viet Minh Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Leo Figueres was in Saigon in early 1950. The French did not allow him to remain in Saigon and he was forced to return to France. Figueres later went to Hong Kong in late August 1950, and then proceeded to the Viet Bac via the Hoa Nam (F.C.: South China ?) road to attend the Third Congress of the ICI held in early October 1950.

2. There had been several previous cases of individuals who were unable to reach Viet Minh territory from Saigon because of French interference. In July 1949 Mr. A. Roth, Editor of the Sunday Tribune, arrived in Saigon and obtained all necessary papers; the French did not allow him to proceed because of his pro-Communist articles. Others were Walter Briggs of the Christian Science Monitor, Harold Isaacs from Newsweek, and S. J. Perelman (because he criticized Bao Dai in Westward, Ho!).

SECRET

14-00000

FBI REPORT
DATE: JULY 51
CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJ: UNKNOWN
FBI FILE #: 100-68282 (NEW YORK)

14-00000

SECRET

25 June 1951

John,
Ple. make a file & index only on this

MEMORANDUM FOR: PI/CS

SUBJECT : Harold R. Isaacs, Request for an information namecheck on.

1. It is requested that a namecheck for information be conducted on Subject for the purpose of determining the validity of charges that Subject is sympathetic to and/or connected with Communist activities.

2. We have been informed unofficially that Subject is currently employed by the Ford Foundation as an adviser on Far East projects. When one of our covert agents was recently called upon by the Ford Foundation to present some suggestions for a Far East program, the agent found that Subject was interested in and was to be closely connected with this program. It is planned that the Ford Foundation remains unaware of the CIA connection with this covert agent.

3. When the report is completed, the information should be routed to J. Bruce Amstutz, FE-1/OPC.

DOUGLAS D. PIRNIE
Deputy Chief, FE-1

FE-1/JBA/ph

Dist: Orig & 1 - Addressee
2 - Registry
1 - FE-1 files ✓

SECRET

SECRET

NAME: Harold R. Isaacs

ADDRESS (last known - '48): 333 Central Park West, N.Y.C.

DATE OF BIRTH: 1910

NATIONALITY: American

BUSINESS CAREER: (a) Staff writer for Havas News Agency (1930-1935)

(b) Editor of China Forum

(c) City Editor for China Press, Shanghai, China

(d) Far Eastern War Correspondent for Newsweek - (1944-1945)

(e) Special Projects Editor for Newsweek (1947 - ?)

(f) Advisor to Ford Foundation

PUBLICATIONS:

1. Contributed to Harper's Magazine and Toronto Star Weekly.

2. Books: (see attached)

SECRET

SECRET

1. Two-Thirds of the World: Problems of a new approach to the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin-America. - 195[illegible]

2. New Cycle in Asia: Selected documents on Major International developments in Far East. 1943 and 1947 - notes and introduction 1947.

3. No Peace for Asia - 1947

4. Tragedy of Chinese Revolution - 1938

5. Five Years of Kuo Min Tang Reaction - 1932

6. Whither France - 1936 - Leon Trotsky wrote the book and Isaacs translated it.



SECRET

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
|---|---|
| Sorge Espionage Case | 2. RI FILE NO. 200-6-7-55 |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. DAR-137 — 4. DATE 28 Dec. 1950 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM — 8. DATE OF INFO. — 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST James E. Plaugher — 6. DATE PROCESSED 21 Nov. 1963 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN — 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| XX | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14. 1. Inclosed is Consecutive Exhibit No. 32 in the documentation of the Sorge Espionage Case. This Exhibit consists of two related parts: I and II. The second part is divided into two sections, A and B, because of its bulk. Part I is an index of each personality and organization listed in Part II. Part II consist of a resume of the contents of each Shanghai Municipal Police file, followed by a aabular listing of the contents of the files, with page references.

Page 24.

| | G-2 Doc. # | Page |
|---|---|---|
| Isaacs, Harold Robert: | | |
| Anti-War Congress report, mentioned in | 59 | 30-32 |
| Burton report, mentioned in | 10 | 8-9 |
| "China Forum"editor of | 65 | 1 |
| "Chinese Workers' Correspondence": | | |
| Investigation re | 32 | 4 |
| Received by | 94 | 1-2 |
| Envelope addressed to | 45 | 6 |
| "Fiev Yaars of Kuomintang Reaction" | 65 | 1 |
| Granich, "Evidently another Isaacs" | 4 | 107 |
| "I Break with the Chinses Staalinists" author of | 16 | 2-7 |

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

SECRET

FORM 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. 9-57 (7-46)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
| --- | --- |
| AGNES SMEDLEY, WAS. | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-434 |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. DFS-1461 |
| | 4. DATE 28 apr. 50 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM |
| | 8. DATE OF INFO. |
| | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JEP | 10. DISSEMINATED IN |
| 6. DATE PROCESSED 21 Nov. 1963 | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
| --- | --- |
| xxxxx | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

page 69

The July 30, 1932 issue of the "New York Times", under a Shahghai Dateline of Jule 29, 1932 , sbates that Harold R. Isaacs, an American citizen., was warned by the U. S. consul in Shahghai that the U. S . may with draw ~~ixx ixx~~ its extra territirial rights and allow him to be tried in a Chinese Court. Isaacs, then editor of the "China Forum", had violently attacked Chiang Kai-Shek, calling him among other things, a butcher. The article further stated that issacs was as associate of Agnes Smedley, a correspondedt for American newspapers.

page 73. The March 7, 1946 issue of the New York Times reflects an article captioned "Group of Americans, including writers and journalists announced that they had sent aletter to Chaing Kai Shek concerning the death of Yang Chao, OWI employee, who was arrested by the Naticnalists and ided in prison. The sighers were critical of the treatment recieved by CHAO. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS signed the letter: Maxwell S. stewart. Elizabeth Ames, Maroline Slade, Alfred Kazin , Eric Severeid, Richard Wasts, jr. H. R. Isaacs, Agnes Smedley and Theordore White.

15.

FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➔ 201-18446

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AGNES SMEDLEY was. Ayoo, Yahoo | 2. RI FILE NO. 201-414 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. EEDFB--854 | | 4. DATE 24 Jan 1950 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JEP / 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 1963 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| xxxx | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Passport files of State Dept. also indicate passport renewal application dated June 23, 1932 in which the subject listed as identifying witnesses ----subject mentioned Harold R. Isaaxs, who according to information poasessed by T--1 as 'RED'

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

(7-46)

14-00000

# SECRET

2P

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AD 30 SODB-20568

DEC 2 1949 via ADSO 2 DEC 49

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Attention: Mr. Ross H. Ingersoll

Subject: Harold Robert ISAACS

MICROFILMED
FEB 3 1966
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1. This is in reply to Mr. Jack D. Neal's request for information concerning Harold Robert ISAACS, made by telephone on 29 November 1949.

201-18446

2. According to information obtained from a source considered reliable, Harold Robert ISAACS was born in New York City on 13 September 1910. He arrived in Shanghai from Manila in December 1930 and was in possession of American passport 177026. ISAACS was first employed in Shanghai by the Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, an English language daily published in Shanghai. After a few weeks, he became associated with the China Press, another English-language daily published in Shanghai, and was with this paper until May 1931. In June of the same year ISAACS made a trip up the Yangtze River with Cecil Frank CLARE, a British subject and member of the British Communist Party, suspected of being an agent for the Third International in China.

3. On 15 June 1931, Hilaire NOULENS, with aliases, was arrested by the Shanghai Municipal Police on charges of espionage in behalf of the Third International. ISAACS became the Shanghai secretary of the Comité International Pour la Défense de Paul et Gertrude Ruegg (NOULENS), a committee formed to aid the NOULENSs in their defense against charges of espionage preferred by the Chinese government. Our files reflect that ISAACS was in correspondence with Willi MUENZENBERG, the President of the Committee with headquarters in Berlin. MUENZENBERG was an active agent in Germany for the Third International. ISAACS is also known to have been in contact with Agnes SMEDLEY in Shanghai at this time.

MUENZENBERG

(MRS) HAROLD R. ISAACS
ZLF CIT: USA OCC: COMMUNIST AGENT? WIFE OF HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS (201-18446)

4. On 29 August 1932, ISAACS gave notice to the American Consulate General in Shanghai of his intended marriage to (Miss) Viola ROBINSON, an American citizen born 10 June 1910 in New York City. Miss ROBINSON arrived in Shanghai on 26 August 1932 from Vancouver, Canada, aboard the S.S. "Empress of Asia", and was in possession of American passport 382046 issued in New York on 14 May 1931. The wedding was held on 14 September 1932 at the American Consulate General. Miss ROBINSON was believed to

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have been connected with Communist activities in the United States and China. Correspondence between ISAACS and Miss ROBINSON prior to their marriage, indicates that they were both sympathetic to activities being conducted by the Communists in China. On 2[illegible] November 1932, Miss ROBINSON was entrusted by Mr. Jacob [illegible], the NOULENS defense attorney, with teaching the English language to Jimmy NOULENS, the four-year old son of Hilaire and Gertrude NOULENS.

5. On 4 April 1936, ISAACS, under the pseudonym of LO SEN, published an article in the New Militant, organ of the Socialist Workers' Party in New York, entitled "Stalintern Ready to Embrace Chiang Kai-shek — Offer Red Army in Return for Resurrection of the Disastrous 1927 Bloc." It is believed that ISAACS later joined the Fourth International, organized by Trotsky subsequent to the latter's exile from Russia.

6. During World War II ISAACS was a war correspondent for Newsweek in China. In July 1945 he was refused entry into China by Chinese Nationalist authorities, presumably as a result of anti-Nationalist articles written by ISAACS for Newsweek.

7. Harold Robert ISAACS is currently Special Features Editor for Newsweek, 152 West 42nd Street, New York, New York. He is the author of several books, including No Peace In Asia and The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution. ISAACS' current political beliefs are unknown to this Agency.

8. Should ISAACS leave this country, this Agency would appreciate being advised of his intended destination, date of departure and any other pertinent details.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

ROBERT A. SCHOW
Assistant Director

SO DB-20568

cc Federal Bureau of Investigation

PF
bdo

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(When Filled In)

## DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shanghai Municipal Police Files. American Citizesns Suspected of Commie Connections. | 2. RI FILE NO. 16-7-24-7y | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. ZCSA-746 | | 4. DATE 24 Feb. 49 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |

| 5. ANALYST | 6. DATE PROCESSED | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| James E. Plaugher | 21 Nov. 1963 | | |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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| XXXXXXXX | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

Para. 17

Harold Robert Isaacs was born in New York City on 13 Sept. 1910 and held USA passport 177026. He was the editor and Publisher of the China Forum, a Shanghai Communist periodical first published in 1932: the secretary of the Nuolens Defense Committee; a member of the Shahghai branch of society of Friends of the USSR and of China League for Civil Rights. He arrived in Shanghai from Manila in Dec. 1930 and worked for Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, swithing after a few weeks to the China Press ehere he was employed until 1931 (May). In June 1931 Isaacs took a trip up the Yangtze with V. Frank Glass, a Brigish Communist and suspected Third International agent. A lxxxxxx a letter wiritten by Isaacs to his fiance, Viola Robinson stated that he was turning "Red" as a result of conversations with GLASS. Ather atatements indicated athat Miss Robinson an American then in Germany, was an active member of the communits Party. Isaacs used the pseddonym of Lo Sen and published in the New Militantm organ of the New York Dist. Workers Party, an attack on Stalin entitled Stalintern Ready to Embrace Chiang Kai shek. In 1949 Isaacs was in the employ of the ?American magazine NEWSWXXX, New York City, as special projects editor.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18496

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-48)

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X-2 BRANCH
REPORT

ZCS-1811

| Report No. | Date | Report Period | |
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Subject

Status

Classification

Reference

Source:

Details:

REGISTRY COPY

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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS, DETACHMENT 404-A
STRATEGIC SERVICE UNIT
BATAVIA, JAVA

SN: ZM2477

REPORT NO: ZB-10 REPORT DATE: 8 Dec 45

TO : CAPT. BLUECHELL, ATTN: LT BARKETTE INFO DATE : 7 Dec 45

FROM : GRABILL NO. PAGES : 2

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW BETWEEN MR. HAROLD ISAACS, MR. CHARLES TAMBU, AND MR. DIAH.

SOURCES: Mr. Harold Isaacs, correspondent for Newsweek magazine.
Mr. Charles Tambu, Malaya born Tamil, formerly employed on Singapore newspapers, newscaster for Singapore radio, English-speaking announcer on Batavia Radio during occupation, and presently editor of newspaper Independent.
Mr. Diah, editor of Merdeka, nationalist newspaper, Batavia.

EVALUATION: B-3, except as noted.

The subject interview was held at the request of Mr. Isaacs in line with his desire to talk with leading figures of Indonesian nationalist movement who held no official government position.

CIRCULATION OF MERDEKA

Asked about present circulation of MERDEKA, Mr. Diah replied with the following: MERDEKA is the largest Indonesian newspaper on the island of Java. At present it is printed only in Batavia, with a daily total circulation of about 18,000 copies. Of this number, approximately 6,000 copies are sent out of the city by train to Bandoeng, Soerakarta, and Djokjakarta, leaving a Batavia circulation of between 10,000 and 14,000 copies. Source expressed the opinion that while the Indonesian population of Batavia is in the neighborhood of 500,000 persons, the literacy rate is perhaps only twenty percent of this figure. Thus, he admitted, MERDEKA is probably reaching less than four percent of the total Indonesian population of Batavia, despite the fact that Batavia is probably the most literate area on the island of Java because of concentration here of all the governmental functions, prewar and present.

When questioned as to why his circulation was so inconsistent with the potential reading population, source replied that he was handicapped by lack of paper. He expressed the opinion that a circulation of 50,000 would be assured, and a circulation of as high as 100,000 possible, were sufficient paper available. At the present rate of consumption, he estimates that sufficient paper is on hand from prewar stocks to continue publication of MERDEKA for one year.

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ZM2477


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THE INDEPENDENT

On December 7, 1945, the MERDEKA press commenced publication of a daily English language newspaper entitled INDEPENDENT. The masthead of this paper states also that it incorporates the INDONESIAN NEWS BULLETIN, a former English language newspaper published by ANTARA news agency.

The INDEPENDENT is at present being edited by Mr. Tambu, with some assistance from Mr. Diah, and using the paper and facilities of MERDEKA.

The first issue of INDEPENDENT was remarkable only for its avoidance of any discussion of local affairs, only two articles having anything whatsoever to do with Java. Questioned about this, Tambu admitted that, while his ultimate ambition was to reach foreign and troop (British) readers, he was hesitant about entering headlong into discussion of local affairs and the Nationalist cause, because, (C-3), the British are unfavorably disposed towards MERDEKA already, and would use his venture as an excuse to confiscate the entire printing plant, were he too openly partisan in his early issues. Within a week or two he hopes to be secure enough in his position to start laying more stress on local news and editorials.

The first issue of INDEPENDENT was printed in 400 copies, most of which were given away, although the stated price is 1 Japanese guilder the copy.



CONFIDENTIAL

27 March 1945

To: Lieutenant Colonel ROGER A. PFAFF

From: John I. Coddington

Subject: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS

Mr. GEORGE N. KATES of OSS, R&A, has just returned to the United States from Chungking. He reached Washington yesterday. He claims to have known HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS quite well in Chungking, and has the following observations to make concerning Mr. ISAACS:

HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS is about 35 years of age. He attended Columbia University, and received the degree of A.B. there in 1930. He is the son of an orthodox Jewish merchant, who is very wealthy, and who has always supported HAROLD, even though he did not approve of the radical views that HAROLD expressed in the 1930's.

HAROLD went to China immediately after graduation from Columbia, partly, atleast, out of a desire to see strange parts of the world and to experience "adventure." He went out by way of Hawaii, and stowed away for part of the voyage -- either between San Francisco and Honolulu, or between Honolulu and Shanghai -- Mr. KATES does not remember which. Anyway, this was part of the "adventure."

In China, HAROLD met a South African named FRANK GLASS, who was an "intellectual" and a very interesting person. GLASS was a Leftist, but not at all a Communist. HAROLD took a trip up the Yangtse with GLASS in 1930 or 1931. At about this time, HAROLD became a convert to Trotskyism, partly, at least, under GLASS's influence. He felt that "suffering humanity" required a "revolution" to set things straight. Communism was too organized, and HAROLD was a complete individualist, and reacted strongly against the organizational set-up of Communism, and so espoused Trotskyism.

He returned to Shanghai from the western part of China, and went to work for

HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS, continued

THE HAVAS News Agency. Shortly after this, in Shagghai, he married VIOLA ROBINSON, who was, like HAROLD, a wide-eyed intellectual. This marriage probably took place in 1932. VIOLA was a great friend of AGNES SMEDLEY, the author of the Battle Hymn of China and of other books dealing with the Chinese Revolution.

An organization called the China League for Civil Rights was formed about 1932. YANG CH'IEN was the head of this for Central China, and Dr. HU SHIH (later Chinese Ambassador to Washington) was the head of it for North China. YANG was at that time Secretary-General of the Academia Sinica. YANG was soon assassinated by the Blue Shirts (at that time CHIANG KAI-SHEK's bodyguard). HAROLD ISAACS had been an enthusiastic member of the China League for Civil Rights, and in the atmosphere of turmoil, after the killing of YANG, when all Leftists were under attack by the Kuomintang, HAROLD became the editor and publisher of the China Forum, a magazine that published a number of controversial articles. The magazine was protected by the fact that the editor was an American, and therefore had extra-territorial rights. Yet the magazine was regarded as a "thorn in the flesh" by Mr. CUNNINGHAM, who was at that time American Consul-General in Shanghai. There were various controversies -- the printing shop was broken up by Kuomintang strong-arm men; the mails were refused to the magazine; but he continued publication for some time, and smuggled the copies out to the subscribers.

In 1933 or 1934, ISAACS had a fight with AGNES SMEDLEY. It was an ideological fight, and therefore especially bitter. ISAACS and his wife left Shanghai after this, and moved to Peking. There he acquired a Chinese translator named LIU, and there he settled down to write his book, The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution. This book "nails the Stalinists to the mast" and shows that they were messing around with a situation in China which they did not understand. Very many people who have read the book consider it excellent.

HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS, continued

The book was completed, and ISAACS and his wife returned to the United States about April or May 1935. Immediately after this, ISAACS made a rapid trip to Oslo, Norway, to see his hero, LEON TROTSKY, who was living there at that time. It was on this occasion that he must have undertaken to translate TROTSKY's book, Whither France ? ISAACS then returned to New York, and went to work for the HAVAS News Agency once more.

At some time in the late 1930's, he became interedtod in New York politics, and he worked hard for NORMAN THOMAS.

By 1940, however, he became disgusted with New York politics, and became interested in the war, and in"bourgeois life." He and his wife had a baby at about this time (their first), and ISAACS found he could write radio scripts and get good money for them. Up to 1940, he had been living chiefly off his father, but from 1940 on, he began to make money. In 1942, he did a "Report to the Nation" for CBS.

Soon after this, he joined the Staff of News-Week, and in 1944 was sent to Chungking by that magazine. There must have been a certain amount of trouble in convincing the Chinese Central Government that ISAACS had really changed since the old days in Shanghai; but this convication was evidently accomplished, or ISAACS would not have received permission from the Chinese Government to go to China.

ISAACS is a very smart man indeed. He knows a lot about China, and he knows a lot about people in general. Moreover, he is a great deal "smoother" and more diplomatic now than he was ten years ago.

13 March 1945

To: Lieutenant Colonel ROGER A. PFAFF

From: John I. Coddington J.I.C.

Subject: HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS

ISAACS, Harold Robert

HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS is now the correspondent of Newsweek magazine in China. His headquarters are in Chungking, but he evidently travels to Kunming, Kweiyang, and other places in the course of his duties. He seems to have arrived in China in his present capacity during the summer of 1944, probably in July.

Subject was born in 1910, and is a member of a wealthy family. He became a firmly convinced Trotskyist in his youth, and remained one till the time of PearlHarbor. He is now regarded as a renegade by his former Trotskyist colleagues, because he has disavowed the principles of world revolution, turned away from Trotsky's teachings, and since 1939 has been writing patriotic propaganda for the United States Government.

He went to China about 1930, and wrote two books dealing with Chinese politics, Five Years of Kuomintang Reaction (1932), and The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution (1938). Both of these volumes expressed the author's Trotskyist point of view. The first was published in Shanghai, and the second in London. Neither was ever published in the United States, and ISAACS said that the Stalinist Communists were so powerful in this country that they were able to prevent the publication of the Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution here. This book received high praise from many serious students of Far Eastern affairs, including G.F. Hudson, Fellow of All Souls College at Oxford, and author of The Far East in World Politics, who said that ISAACS' book was the best one ever written on the Chinese Revolution. Hudson is now an official of the British Ministry of Information.

ISAACS' non-Communist and non-Trotskyist friends say that even during the

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HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS, continued.

height of his Trotskyist career, ISAACS never accepted money from the group. He was always open and above-board, and never engaged in any conspiracies to overthrow established government. He was attracted to the movement, they say, by sheer idealism.

For a time in China, ISAACS lived with Tillman DURDIN, the China correspondent of the New York Times, who was then the managing editor of the China Press. ISAACS returned to the United States in the late 1930's, and was for a time employed by the havas News Agency, until the fall of France in 1940. In 1943, he was employed by Newsweek magazine in Washington, D.C., and resided at 4938 Newport Avenue, Freiddship Heights.

Publications

(a) Books

Five Years of Kuomintang Reaction (Shanghai, China Forum Publishing Co., 1932), 136 pp. Library of Congress Call No.: DS 777.47.C45

The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution (London, Secker & Warburg, 1938) 501 pp. Library of Congress Call No.: DS 774.I7

(b) Translations

Lev Trotskii (Leon Trotsky), Whither France, translated by John G. Wright and Harold R. Isaacs (New York, Pioneer Publishers, 1936). Library of Congress Call No.: DC 398.T7

(c) Articles in Periodicals

"Perspectives of the Chinese Revolution: a Marxist View," Pacific Affairs, vol. 8, pp. 269-283, Sept. 1935.

"Job by Experts," Newsweek, p. 30, 7 Aug. 1944.

"Surprising the Japs," Newsweek, pp. 35-36, 7 Aug. 1944.

"Blowing the Top," Newsweek, pp. 45-6, 4 Sept. 1944.

"Last night in Kweilin," Newsweek, pp. 31-32, 25 Sept. 1944.

HAROLD ROBERT ISAACS, continued

"One Man's Fight against Corruption: the Story behind the Stilwell Incident," Newsweek, p. 44, 13 Nov. 1944

"Troupers of the CBI," Newsweek, p. 100, 13 Nov. 1944

"Ignorant Men and Modern Weapons: Inside Story of the Chinese Army," Newsweek, p. 44, 20 Nov. 1944

"Death for Kweiyang," Newsweek, p. 36, 18 Dec. 1944

"Dorn of the Salween," Newsweek, pp. 26-27, 1 Jan. 1945

"First Truck to Kunming," Newsweek, p. 34, 29 Jan. 1945

"Ting Hao: Shouts of Welcome met First Convoy to Kunming," Newsweek, pp. 35-36, 12 Feb. 1945

Bibliography

SI Files #25,443: 6 October 1943

Books and Periodicals in Library of Congress

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16 402

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
630 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 20, N.Y.

10 March 1945

#78324

To Major General William J Donovan

From John C Hughes

Subject Harold R Isaacs

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I asked Mr DeVecchi of this office to check with Alan Grover, Vice President of "Time and Life". One of the men with whom Grover works very closely knows Isaacs intimately. In this man's opinion, Isaacs is a very solid and substantial citizen, knowledgable, hard working and an able correspondent of good character. He states that he has recently had occasion to communicate with Isaacs and that his address is:

Harold R Isaacs
War Correspondent
U.S.F. CT
APO 627
c/o Postmaster, New York

JCH

J C Hughes

201-18446

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Hughes

# OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
630 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 20, N.Y.

CONFIDENTIAL

March 9, 1945

File X78278

MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. SPENCER PHENIX

FROM: ROBERT DeVECCHI

Alan Grover, Vice-President of TIME, LIFE, at my request checked with one of the men in his organization who knows Harold R. Isaacs personally.

He told Mr. Grover that Mr. Isaacs, in his opinion, is a very solid and substantial citizen, knowledgable, hard working, good character, and an able correspondent.

Mr. Isaacs can be reached at the following address:

HAROLD R. ISAACS
War Correspondent
U.S.F. CT
APO 627
c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

NY-SI-Pers-3
f/4 Box 1

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# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Various reports and newspapers clippings relating to operations. | 2. RI FILE NO. China CLA-OP-1 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SHP-D-5760 "Box 203 | | 4. DATE 26 Aug. 35 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JEP | 6. DATE PROCESSED 21 Nov. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE xxxx | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

THE NORTH-CHINA Daily NEWS Saturday 6 July 35

~~Mr. Harold R. Isaacs~~, an American and Publisher of the communist Publication "China Forum. ~~YUAN~~ Hsueh editor of the chinese section. of the "China Forum.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

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(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VICTOR MUSSIK's visit to AMOY. | RI FILE NO. CHINA CIA OP-1 | | | |
| | DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. D 4429 | | DATE 26 Jan. 34 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION | |
| 5. ANALYST JEP | 6. DATE PROCESSED 23 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE | |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| XXXX | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

The Japanese Consular Authorities at Amoy are of the belief that H. R. Isaacs went Amoy between Dec. 24 xx1933 and Jan 3, 1934, under the name of Victor Mussik, the local Jananese authorities, therefore, request for info regarding the movements of Victor Mussik during the afore mentioned period to ascertain if He actually visited amoy during this period

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-184448

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | |
|---|---|---|
| Attack on Bookstores | 2. RI FILE NO. China-cia-op-1 | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SMP--5454-8 box 200 | 4. DATE 21 Dec 33 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM / 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JAMES E. Plaugher / 6. DATE PROCESSED 21 Nov. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

The second incident was seen in the entry by persons unknown on the night of November 14 of premises of the Lev el Printing Co., incorporated in New York printers and publisher of the "China Forum" a bi-lingual magazine under the ~~ct~~ editorship of an American named Harold R. Isaacs, which has dicided communistic sympathies.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. ➡ 201-18446

FORM 9-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

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# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DISTRICH KUOMINTANG ISSUES SECRET ORDER FOR ANTI JAPANESE MOVEMENT. | 2. RI FILE NO. CHINA-CIN-OP-1 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SMPD 4685&SMPD 4685c Box 193 | | 4. DATE 22 July 33 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |

| 5. ANALYST | 6. DATE PROCESSED | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| JAMES. E. Plaugher | 3 Dec. 63 | | |

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| XXX 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

The transportation of the China Rorum has already been prohibited by the Nanking Govt. because the magazine had been publishing propaganda for the reds as well as attacks on the National bovt, that the publisher being an American citized named Isaac the measures taken against the peper had no effect. This time a strong protest will be lodged with the American Consulate against Isaac.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

SECRET
(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| List of correspondents in Shanghai | 2. RI FILE NO. CIHINA-CIA CP | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SMPD 4528 | 4. DATE 23 Feb. 33 | |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JFE | 6. DATE PROCESSED #3 Dec. 263 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| xxxx 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.
among the correspondents listed one H.R. ISAACS (American)address 509 Embankment Apart-ments. Repr. of the HAVAS News Agency.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

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(When Filled In)

# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION |
|---|---|
| Copy of report by D. S. PITTS<br>Copy of China Workers' Correspondence,<br>Addressed to Harold R. Isaacs | 2. RI FILE NO.: CHINA CIA OPI<br>3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO.: SMPD 2713 BOX-179<br>4. DATE: 10 Nov. 32<br>7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM:<br>8. DATE OF INFO.:<br>9. EVALUATION: |
| 5. ANALYST: JEP<br>6. DATE PROCESSED: 23 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN:<br>11. DATE: |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
|---|---|
| xxx | |

PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

This document contains numerous references to Harold R. Isaacs and his wife. For further information the interested parties are requested to see the document itself due to bulky nature the poor quality of paper reporduction is virtually impossible.

15.

FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-15446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

SECRET

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# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW YORK"NATION" | 2. RI FILE NO. CHINA-CIA-OP-1 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SMPD 4014 | | 4. DATE 17 Sept 32 |
| | 7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM | 8. DATE OF INFO. | 9. EVALUATION |
| 5. ANALYST JAMES E. Plaigher — 6. DATE PROCESSED 3 Dec. 63 | 10. DISSEMINATED IN | 11. DATE | |

DOCUMENT DISPOSITION

| 12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE | 13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO. |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

In continuation of a previous report on the subject of the New York "Nation", I have to state that further efforts to pu rchase this publication have proved successful, and I attach herewith three copies, respectively dated July 6, Aug. 10 and Aug. 24,1932.

From a cusory perusual of these editions, the "Nation"s political policy appears to bd a socialistic nature, openly professing oppositon to the Republican and Democratic doctrines prevailing throughout the United ~~Sxtx~~ States, and advocating support for the Cocialist Party's ~~xxxxx~~ candidate—Norman Thomas at the forth coming Presidetial elections.

Further articles appearing in these editions are nothing more nor less that scurrilous attacks on the Republican President of The USA.-Herbert Hoover.

Harold R. Isaacs mailing list has been carefully persudd, but no mention is made of the "Nation" or any of the Poeple connected with it.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO. 201-18446

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

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# DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

| SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT | DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| John M. Murray | 2. RI FILE NO. CHINA-CIA op 1 | | |
| | 3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. SMP-D 3703 | 4. DATE 2 June 32 | |
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PERTINENT INFORMATION

14.

During the Summer of 1932 Murray is known to have been associated with the following local communist sympathizers: H.R. ISAACS.

15. FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

FORM 8-57 867 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS. SECRET (7-46)

14-00000

- D-6628 -

File No. ... REGISTRY. 6628

# SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Special Branch S.5. D

REPORT

Date April 4, 1935.

Subject The New International - Extract.

SMPD-6628

Made by and Forwarded by D.S.I. Golder.

Magazine ... by ... returned to ...

I forward herewith as directed by the D. C. Special Branch 12 copies of an extract from "The New International", a Communist propaganda organ published in New York, U.S.A.

Em Golder
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

S2,
Please let me know what has happened to Isaacs. Is he still detained by the Chinese Police at Peking?

See File S 3713/36

D.S. Larson

4/4/35.

18476

EXTRACT FROM THE NEW INTERNATIONAL SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1934 (PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK).

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I Break with the Chinese Stalinists

To the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party: The two-year period of my extra-organizational collaboration with the Chinese Communist party has come to an end and the China Forum which I founded and edited during that time has been forced to suspend publication. In the interest of our whole movement as well as in my personal interest, I consider it necessary to record here and publish the history of the China Forum and the circumstances of its suspension.....

xxxxx

From almost the very beginning of my active work - which I date from the time I began reporting events in China in a communist way - a number of questions presented themselves to me in increasingly forcible form. These arose originally from my discovery of the gross distortions and exaggerations which I found to be characteristic of communist propaganda in China and abroad. I define propaganda as the skillful, clear, accurate and wholly truthful reporting of the facts linked to an incisive, purposive interpretation and a plan of action for dealing with the facts in a revolutionary way. I learned this from the life and work of Lenin and his Bolshevik comrades who taught us that the truth comes from the masses themselves and that only disaster can result from telling them lies. I have never learned to the contrary that it was my revolutionary duty to work in any other way, although I soon found that the present-day Communist party press makes a practise of distinguishing between propaganda and truth.

Examples of exaggeration and distortion most striking to me were naturally those which applied to China, because here I could check allegations with known facts. I first wrote these down to the ignorance or incapacity of individuals. I felt that communist editors abroad would publish accurate facts about China if they could get them. Accordingly with a friend I tried to set up an independent mail news service and sent weekly bulletins to papers all over the world giving brief, sharp, factual accounts of what was going on. This was in the fall of 1931 after my return from the area of the great Central China floods of that summer. I scarcely understood then why this service failed to secure any response from the communist press abroad. After about three months I had to suspend it for lack of support. It simply didn't get published except in a few organs which were not official Communist party papers, including the New York Militant.

It wasn't long before I began to perceive, with a deeper study of international events and the history of the Chinese revolution, that a consistent thread ran through the distortions and exaggerations which I found not only in brief casual reports of current events but in the solemn pronunciamentoes made by delegates before plenums of the E.C.C.I. I discovered that these departures from the truth were made necessary by the official premise that ever since the catastrophe of 1927 a mighty, upsurging revolutionary movement has been marching forward in China to the very brink of seizure of power under the leadership of the Chinese Communist party. I discovered that these exaggerations were necessary because the premise was false and along with it all the basic tenets of the

politics being pursued by the Communist International and the Communist party in China. I cannot begin here to give a summary of some of these distortions (which I verbally cited to you by the dozen), ranging from particular incidents (the wilfully false picture given of the cotton mill strike in Shanghai in January 1932, even to the point of transposing it to February to heighten the impression given of the workers' role in the Shanghai war) to high-flown generalizations like the statement recently made before the plenum of the E.C.C.I. that the C.C.P. has "won over the majority of the Chinese working class and the peasantry".....

In denying the presence of a mighty revolutionary upsurge (i.e., a vast organized march toward the seizure of power), I respect facts made still clearer perhaps when compared to the facts and figures of the monster mass movements of the 1925-27 period. The tragic errors of the communist leadership in 1927 were primarily responsible for the decapitation of that great movement and because no lessons have been drawn from these events to this very day, these errors, monstrously accumulated, are still responsible for the tragedies of today. But for the purposes of our comparison here, let us take for example the single fact that in 1926 in Greater Shanghai there were 257 strikes. In 1932 there were 82. Let us remember that on the eve of the workers' seizure of power in Shanghai in March, 1927, there were more than 800,000 workers, handicraftsmen and petty traders out on the streets fighting with arms in hands for demands of a far-reaching political character. A close check for the entire country in the latter half of 1933 showed me that less than one-thirtieth of that number were engaged in strikes and other disputes during any given month and that almost invariably the demands were defensive demands against wage cuts and lockouts. Moreover, the lack of cohesive leadership - often in departments of the same factory or in one or more of a group of factories - or even sometimes lack of even the most elementary organization - has in almost every case led to deadening failure and relatively easy betrayal by the yellow "labor leaders" and "mediators" of the Kuo Min Tang. In 1925 the shooting of thirteen students by British police in Shanghai was the touch-off for a general strike which paralyzed the city and which was seconded by vast sympathy strikes which broke like a series of tidal waves over the entire country. In January 1932, when the Japanese imperialists used the Shanghai International Settlement as a base for operations which cost the lives of tens of thousands of Chinese, not a single strike interrupted the normal course of the public or other services in that settlement. In the factories there were no strikes but a large scale lockout to which the overwhelming majority of Shanghai's workers submitted without protest....

In the case of the widespread but isolated and individual cases of peasant uprisings, and this includes the Red armies in Kiangsi, these struggles await the leadership of a strong working class movement before they can have a successful issue. The Red armies in their restricted and surrounded areas and with their meagre resources have fought heroically against the Kuomintang attacks upon them. But until the Kuo Min Tang is shaken from its bulwarks in the imperialist-controlled working class centers, their prospect of revolutionary triumph remains necessarily dim. No revolutionary purpose is served by taking refuge in the fiction that these armies have proletarian leadership because individual workers, undoubtedly

leaders of superior quality and courage, have been torn from their factories and from their fellow workers and sent down to occupy key positions in the Red army districts and in the Red armies themselves. Indeed, this common practise of extracting the most conscious and progressive working class elements from their working class environment and sending them down to the Red districts is a good index to the criminal transposition of emphasis which has helped paralyze the working class movement in the cities. If the White Terror doesn't carry off the workers' leaders as they arise, the C.P. does and has done so in hundreds of cases. This helps in no small part to explain why it has also been impossible to mobilize a genuine mass anti-Japanese movement in the face of military aggression and why the White Terror of the Kuo Min Tang has succeeded, by filling mass graves and innumerable prisons with the martyred dead and living, in downing the anti-imperialist movement or efforts toward the organization of such a movement and paving the way for the ever-increasing encroachments of the imperialists. The party has not yet gripped and directed the deep and bitter and often inarticulate hatred of the masses of the people for their oppressors and this includes large sections of the lower petty bourgeoisie who could be won by successful mass pressure from below. This is because they party has failed to translate the realities of everyday events into its program and tactics.....

x x x x x

But precisely because at all costs I desired to carry on the Forum's open struggle against the common enemy - against the Kuo Min Tang and the imperialists - I sedulously avoided bringing these issues into the columns of the paper, increasingly against my better judgment. I leaned over far backward in this respect. This expressed itself in many of the current issues with which we had to deal.

I ask you to recall the whole uphill fight which the Forum waged on behalf of Paul and Gerturd Ruegg in the spring and summer of 1932 during which time I repeatedly warned against the emphasis which was being placed on the "legal" aspects of the case and the "negotiations" with the Kuo Min Tang to the detriment of mass pressure and the capitalization of the case for political purposes. You paid lip service to the need for mass pressure - particularly here in China - but in fact the "legalities" and futile negotiations remained the major pillars of the defense. Until in the very end I finally rebelled, I wasn't even permitted to give Ruegg his honorable and rightful title - secretary of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat! Yet although I felt the struggle for the Rueggs was being seriously handicapped by the tactics being pursued, I carried on the fight with all the energy at my command and you will recall that it was I who created the local defense committee and was chiefly responsible for the widespread press propaganda campaign and the considerable sympathy which we aroused. Yet the strictly non-political attitude which Ruegg was forced to assume at the trial (in contrast to the highly political attitude of his prosecutors!) was in my opinion one of the major reasons for the fate to which he and his wife were condemned.

I ask you to recall the whole period of the organization and activities of the China League for Civil Rights, from December 1932 to June 1933, in which I took an active part. I gave full play to this hybrid League and its work without once publishing the basic criticisms which I often voiced to you and which in the end were wholly confirmed by what happened after the Kuo Min Tang murdered Yang Chien in June that year. I ask you to recall the views I set forth in August and September 1933, on the

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subject of the "Anti-War Congress" which at your specific request I did not publish. Instead, to my regret, I published the foul rot of Marley & Co. without freely giving play to the true facts about that farcical junket which had convinced me that the policies which gave it birth do not one single whit advance the international struggle against imperialist war.

On one occasion - and this at least I can take comfort in - I passively resisted when you requested me to write and publish a slanderous attack on Chen Du Hsiu when he was condemned to 13 years imprisonment by the Kuo Min Tang. Your request was specific. I was not to deal with the issues which had brought Chen Du Hsiu from being the leader of the C.P. in 1927 to being leader of the Chinese Opposition in 1933. I was only to string together a vile series of labels in an effort to explain why the Kuo Min Tang even imprisoned the leader of the Left Opposition. As you know, that attack was never written or published.

Again in December 1933, upon my return from Fukien, you specifically demanded that I set aside the results of my own personal investigations in Foochow in order to write on your behalf (but over my signature!) an utterly baseless and slanderous attack on the Left Opposition. You will recall that you charged at that time that the "Trotskyists" were prominently identified with the new government set up in Fukien by Chen Ming-shu and Tsai Ting-kai. You lumped the Left Opposition with the Third Party and the socalled Social Democrats among the petty bourgeois satellites of the Fukien militarists. It was as much to satisfy myself on this very point as to perform a mission for you, that I went down to Foochow and spent two weeks there and learned through direct contact with dozens of people prominently concerned that the Left Opposition was stoutly and clearly opposed to the Foochow regime. I haven't place here to discuss the relations of the C.P. to the short-lived Fukien government or the character of the "negotiations" which were going on down there. The important thing here is that on my return you demanded that I write slanders which flew in the face of everything I myself had learned. It is interesting, as a side-light on your methods in factional strife as you conceive it, that your representative in Foochow sent back a report, through me, ironically enough, that one of the most prominent of the youthful pseudo-radicals in Foochow, Wu Cui-yuen to be exact, was a leading "Trotskyist". It so happened that I had met and had several lengthy interviews with Wu and by the time I left Foochow I understood his position and his personality exceedingly well. He was as much a Trotskyist as Mei Lan-fang is! Yet you actually demanded that I ignore my own knowledge of the man and in my article on Fukien set him down as a "Trotskyist". I was faced on the one hand by your demands that I write falsehoods to suit your policies and on the other by my deep desire to set forth the actual facts about the Opposition's attitude toward the Fukien regime. But once more, to preserve the shreds of our relationship, I drove a middle course and did neither, leaving the whole question out of my article.

Nevertheless, abruptly in January of this year you forced an ultimatum upon me and subsequently forced the break in our relationship because I could not and would not, at your demand, devote the China Forum to policies which I could not and do not believe compatible with the interests of the Chinese revolution and the international proletarian revolution. I could not, at your demand, set aside the convictions to which I had literally been driven by the stinging lash of catastrophic events in China, Germany and the world over. Particularly my deep interest in Chinese events during the last three years made it impossible for me, finally, to give active support to policies and tactics whose disastrous effects were being a thousandfold confirmed for me by the tragic events of every swiftly-passing day. I could not ignore questions which strike at the roots of our work and the whole structure of our hopes for a revolutionary future.

Despite the fact that these questions are rocking the entire International today, you denied my right to raise them in print. You demanded more. You demanded that I attack anybody who did so - primarily the people you call "counter-revolutionary Trotskyists" - the only people who are facing these problems today in a fearless, revolutionary way! You demanded that the China Forum become a stereotype for the policies and vulgar factional slanders which I could neither then nor now be party to. In reply to my questions on China you simply quoted back at me the lies and half-lies I've been so used to reading in Inprecorr. You even declared: "For propaganda purposes a certain amount of exaggeration is necessary,..." and went on amazingly to say: "but we know the ture facts and we base our policies on them, not on these exaggerations!" A new slant on modern-day C.I. tactics! Facts, you say, are curious things. They have to be turned around and around and around, and examined closely until their true nature becomes apparent. The trouble is you turn them so far and so quickly that they turn into something like a dizzily turning top of fancy - or at best wish-fulfilling misrepresentations.

To my questions on Germany you quoted Heckert, Piatnitsky and the E.C.C.I.'s famous resolution declaring that the collapse of the German party and the slaughter of the German workers were based on the past, present and future correct policies of the C.P.G.! You declared I had no right to offer critical comment on the dangerously opportunistic foreign and domestic policies of the U.S.S.R. most notably on the entry of the U.S.S.R. on a straight nationalist basis into the disgusting corridors of imperialist intrigue. To the contrary, I was livingly, fawningly to fondle and hail the policies which have meant disaster in China, Germany and elsewhere and are rapidly leading the U.S.S.R. into the vacuum of nationalist isolation from the world-wide proletarian movement. This I was to do, to begin with, by publishing Stalin's face on the front page and columns of the customary panegyrics to his infallibility. Above all and before all, I was to take up cudgels against "counter-revolutionary Trotskyism". That was to be the main point of my reformation - to raise no questions myself and slander anybody else who did so.

In reply to your demand that I submit to an editorial board in order that these editorial policies should be effectively put into practise, I offered (1) to continue publication strictly as before, meanwhile arguing out my differences with you in discussions on the side; (2) to throw the columns of the Forum open to a general discussion

of all basic revolutionary questions, with free play to unorthodox as well as orthodox views. If your views were correct, I argued, it would be a distinct advantage to you to have such an opportunity to display their brilliance alongside the puny efforts of your critics; (3) to publish orthodox news and views but to reserve for myself the right to comment and criticise.

These repeated offers you repeatedly refused. You offered to discuss these questions with me verbally if in the meanwhile I threw the Forum open to your editorial board. My other proposals were unthinkable! Give the Forum's readers a chance to hear "counter-revolutionary" viewpoints ? Never that ! I could only display my revolutionary purity by acceding to your demands. We would talk things over until spring, when if all went well (i.e. if I showed a satisfactory adaptation to your viewpoint) I could pack up for an educational trip to the Soviet Union where I would certainly become convinced of the error of my ways. In other words, you wanted my signature on a promissory note with the amount left blank for you to fill in. You put this in the form of an ultimatum and you told me that if I did anything but accept I would forthwith enter the camp of the "counter-revolution".

I had to refuse these terms. I had to refuse to lend myself to a slanderous and baseless struggle against the International Left Opposition. I had to refuse to lend space to the nauseatingly fawning praise of Stalin and uncritical reception of Stalinist policies which characterize the Communist party press the world over. I had to refuse to take shelter in the cold and draughty empty spaces which stretch behind the impressive facade and early traditions of the Communist International. I would like to go to the Soviet Union for a visit one day - but I had to refuse your offer on your terms. I had to refuse, in short, to become a hack prostitute in the name of the revolution.

In the end, too, I had to refuse to turn over to you the printing plant I had built up with so much pain and struggle because I considered it not your property but the property of the working class movement. Because I could not carry on the Forum myself, for lack of financial resources and because of heavy debts contracted, I disposed of the plant and turned every farthing of the proceeds over to where I now consider the true interests of our movement lie. It was with a deep and abiding bitterness that I had to see the Forum go down under the blows of those whom I had considered comrades, when for two years it had fought off all its many enemies on the outside.

Yet with it came the realization that we have to build anew over the ruins you have wrought. The revolution and the building of our future moves forward and when we trample down the defenses of our enemies we shall crush underfoot everything and everybody that stands in our way. No sycophantic, blind allegiance to a name, an empty facade, a torn and shredded prestige can lead us forward. Only unswerving fidelity to our goal and active struggle toward this end with the weapons of a correct and tested political line will lift us from defeat to ultimate victory. To this struggle I shall continue to dedicate all my energies.

Peiping, China, May 20, 1934.

Harold R. ISAACS.

14-00000

ISAACS COUNTRIES

1931-1936 China(DFB 786?)

1954 Harold Robert Isaacs working MIT, Center for Internat'l Studies (dossier)

"Five Years of Kuomintang Reaction", a 13? page pamphlet published in 1932 at Shanghai, lists ISAACS as Editor. The pamphlet consists of reprints of articles which appeared in the "China Forum" by "anonymous authors and collaborators". The pamphlet denounces the Kuomintang and CHIANG Kai-shek for alleged massacre of its political opponents, chiefly Communists, in order "that the bourgeoisie might continue to rule and the imperialists to draw their tribute from the capitalization of human misery". Chinese Communists are seen as the hope of the future. ISAACS continues to reside at 333 Central Park West, NYC, and is employed as free lance journalist, as of 12 May 53. DFB-27426.

ISAACS REFERENCES Dossier 201-18446

Shanghai Municipal Police Files, SCS 138, Photo # 177. File 16-4-2-y5

DFB 1461, 11 May 1950. Agnes Smedley file, 201-414

DFB 7864, 28 Feb 1951. Enclosing info re Richard SORGE gathered from FBI interview with ISAACS in April 1950.

DFB 11880, 11 Sept 51, 201-6556-1 Presently living in NYC

DFB-15017, 15 Jan. 52; 201-6556-4; no new info.

DFB-14423, 20 Dec 1951, 201-9016-1, Subj member of an Aid Committee to the Secy. of the Pan Pacific Trades Union Secretariat (NOULENS) in Shanghai along with Agnes SMEDLEY, Irene [illegible], J. POWELL, Edgar SNOW, Frank GLASS.

Shanghai Municipal Police Files, SCS-1811, 16-4-2-37, 5 Feb 49.

DFB-[illegible], 14 August 195?, 201-[illegible]

DFB-14747, 8 Jan 1952, 201-9290-1 re APPLEMAN, Norris Louis

DFB-27426- 12 June 53, 201-18446-4.

14-00000



ISAACS, H
Probably Harold R[illegible]T

@ JACOB. FBI think that there is a possibility that the JACOB, an unidentified young Amer journalist in Shanghai in 1931, 32 who was a member of the SORGE network in China might possibly be identical with ISAACS, ISAACS himself has advised that he does not believe that he could have been the indiv to whom SORGE gave the covername JACOB. ( DFB 7864)

171

Addresses: May 1953 - 333 Central Park West, NYC
DFB-27426.

(over)

(263-1811, 16-4-2-37, 5 Feb 59: Shanghai Municipal Pol Files.)

(over)

show anything on the guy so that [illegible] can — to them. — Collins called [illegible] again to see if I&S would release this info now. He will see [illegible] tomorrow.

11 Sept 51 - Collins has talked to Brewer about this some time. Brewer said Collins couldn't get at House Records. Collins said Brewer promised him report & he now wants it. Asked Brewer & found he hadn't seen file in [illegible]

ZCS 138, Attach 2(3), Shanghai Police Files, # 177 15-4-2- x 5

ISAACS

The July 30 1932 issue of the NY Times under a Shanghai dateline of 29 July 1932, states that Harold R ISAACS, an American citizen was warned by the US Consul General in Shanghai that t e US may withdraw its extra-Territorial rights a d allow him to be tried in a Chinese court. ISAACS then the editor of the " China Forum," had violently attacked Chiang Kai Shek, calling him, among other things, " a butcher." The article further stated that ISAACS was an associate of Agnes SMEDLEY, a correspondent for American newspapers( DFB 1461)

Preceded the GRANICHES, as editor of"The Voice of China". Wrote an article "I Break With Stalinism",-which gave a candid elucidation of the Comm. financial backing of the "Voice of China". DCE-4385, 7 Feb. 52

One Harold Robert ISAACS was born 13 Sept 1910 ; 5'9" tall, med build, br eyes, & blach wavy hair brushed back. Born in NYC, Amc citizen. Editor & publisher of the China Forum. Was secy of NOULENS Defense Committee & member of Society of Freinds of USSR Arrived in China from Manila on 10 Dec 30 & joined editorial staff of Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury. On 12 June 31, took trip on Yangtsze with C.F.GLASS, susp Sov agent, & wrote his fiancee he decided to turn "Red" as a result of talking with GLASS. The 2 returned in Aug & took up residence at #12S Weihaiwei Road. Started printing Forum later. Manager of Level Printing C., Inc in NY State & owned 40% of its shares. Employed with Havas News Agency. ISAACS married Miss Viola ROBINSON Sept 32. Lived in Apt 204, Embankment Bldg., Shanghai. In 3 Jan 34 Subj visited NOULENS who were on hunger strike in prison. Subj's parents arrived in Shanghai 14 Jan 34 & left 20 Feb for Marseilles. Subj. published art in New Militant, organ of NY Districts Worker's Party attacking STALIN. ISAACS was also lecturing on Japan, China, and USSR & War Crisis in Far East. (ZCS-1811, 16-4-2-37, 5 Feb 59: Shanghai Municipal Pol Files.)

(C?SR)

show anything on the query so that programme can [illegible] DTS would address to Russell. Collins called Russell again to see if [illegible] this info now. He will see Russell tomorrow.

11 Sept 51 - Collins has talked to Brewer about this some [illegible]. Brewer said Collins couldn't get at House Records. Collins said Brewer promised him report & he now wants it. Asked Brewer & found he didn't [illegible] file in 3155

Confid Informant advised that [illegible] in China in [illegible] as a correspondent for the NEWSWEEK and was expelled [illegible] because of his bitter attacks on the Nationalist Govt of China in the [illegible]. According to Informant Subj thereafter traveled to French Indochina and [illegible] of the French Colonial Govt in Indochina. Informant also reported that Subj was ardent supporter of an independent movement [illegible] HO CHI MINH, a former Comintern agent. This group desired only the freedom of Indochina from the French, and was non-Communist, according to propaganda, but it received a great deal of help from local Communist forces and from Chinese Reds. Informant further stated that in US Subj was member of Viet Nam-American Friendship Association which Informant characterized as a propaganda outlet in US for the Viet Minh Movement. Subj has advised that he was associated with Agnes SMEDLEY, [illegible] correspondent, in MOSCOW in early 1930s. Subj has advised that he is presently employed as a free lance writer. DMP-10343

According to APPELMAN, Subj is author of "The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution" and APPELMAN met Subj thru Alexander BUCHMAN; Subj was the first editor of the CCP paper of which APPELMAN lter was to become editor. DFB-14747

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The book "New Cycle In Asia" by ISAACS, pub in 1947 by the Institute of Pacific "elations as a collection of the official texts of various treaties and agreements among South Asian and Western powers during the perild of WW II and later. ISAACS supplies a brief editorial introduction to these taxts which is apparently non-political in nature. His article "kKorea and American World Policy" appears in the August 7, 1950 issue of the "New Republic". The article advocates withdrawal of US support from French colonial forces in Indochina and recognition of Red China in hope of driving a wedge between Russia and Chinese Communists. DFB 25069, 12 March 1953, 201-18446-3.

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**ISAACS, HAROLD** O.G. 5237 **FE-1 Amstuts**

File in "Name Check" file

**26 June 1951 - Memo dated 25 June to PT/CS requesting informational namecheck on subj. for the purpose of determining the validity of charges that Subj. is sympathetic to and/or connected with Communist activities. See file for rest of memo.**

14 Aug 51 - ~~[illegible]~~ Catoir (PT/CS) advised he may have poor info. on China. Keep away for time being. Amstutz not in. Notified F. Collins who is quite anxious to know. Wants to try to get Subj. and [illegible] where he is.

29 Aug 51 - Found Collins had been talking to Carroll & also been up to I&S. Carroll said had info. Borge [illegible], Smedley et al. DO NOT TOUCH. - Notified Collins who said this isn't what he wants. Wants to get [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] betraying OPC interest.: Needs to [illegible] House Records (Cong) show anything on the guy so that foundation can be referred to them. - Collins called Carroll again to see if I&S would release this info now. He will see Carroll tomorrow.

11 Sept 51 - Collins had talked to Brewer about this some [illegible]. Brewer said Collins couldn't get at House Records. Collins said Brewer promised him report & he now wants it. Asked Brewer & found he hadn't seen file in I&S

ISAACS, HAROLD          *J.B. 5237*          FE-1 Amstutz

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*29 Aug 51 - Found Collins had been talking to Carroll & also been up to I&S. Carroll said bad info. Page King, Smedley et al. DO NOT TOUCH. - Notified Collins who said this isn't what he wants. Wants to get these [illegible] out of Foundation, not out [illegible] OPC interest. Needs to know if House Records (open) show anything on the guy so that foundation can be referred to them. - Collins called Carroll again to see if I&S would release this info now. He will see Carroll tomorrow.*

*11 Sept 51 - Collins had talked to Brewer about this some more. Brewer said Collins couldn't get at House Records. Collins said Brewer promised him report & he now wants it. Asked Brewer & found he hadn't seen file in I&S*

Confid Informant advised that Subj was in China in 1930 as a [illegible] correspondent for the [illegible] and was expelled from China because of his bitter attacks on the Nationalist Govt of China in the [illegible]. [illegible] Subj thereafter traveled to French Indochina [illegible] of the French Colonial Govt in Indochina. Informant also reported that Subj was ardent supporter of an independent movement led by HO CHI MINH, a former Comintern agent; this group desired only the indep of Indochina from French and was non-Communist, according to propaganda, but it recd a great deal of [illegible] local Communist forces and from Chinese Reds. Informant further stated that in US Subj was member of Viet Nam-American Friendship Association which Informant characterized as [illegible] outlet in US for the Viet Minh movement. Subj has advised that he was acquainted with Walter [illegible], NY TIMES correspondent, in MOSCOW in early 1930s. Subj has advised that he is presently employed as a free lance writer. DBB-[illegible]

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yet, called Collins to come up to OO/SO/SEC. to discuss, but he wasn't there. Brewer says cannot give info out if it is going to be passed on. If high level man involved in passing info., Col. Edwards Office will have to give it out. Collins called Brewer & they made some arrangement.

13 Sept. - Brewer, Collins & I talked over case. Brewer told Collins that House files don't contain particularly derog. info. It is in other files tho, & Brewer refused to divulge info to Collins. Said that any contact with Ford Foundation must be made by high-level CIA man (like Braden) and that Collins' men — (clearly) could not tell Ford Foundation anything about Subj. - Collins agreed & the case is considered CLOSED.

13 November 1951 - ~~Undated~~ 7 Nov. 51 memo from OO/OP advising that "under no circumstances should Subject be contacted with regard to possible use by this agency prior to receiving a final security determination by this office." Copy to FG-1 Collins.

14-00009

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY
SECRET
(When Filled In)

# PERSONALITY (201) FILE REQUEST

TO: RI/ANALYSIS SECTION
DATE: 26 Aug. 57
ACTION: X OPEN | AMEND | CLOSE
FROM: FE/2/CE
ROOM NO.: 2507-J
TELEPHONE: 8574

INSTRUCTIONS: Form must be typed or printed in block letters.
SECTION I: List 201 number, name and identifying data in the spaces provided. All known aliases and variants (including maiden name, if applicable) must be listed. If the identifying data varies with the alias used, a separate form must be used. Write UNKNOWN for items you are unable to complete.
SECTION II: List cryptonym or pseudonym, if assigned. If true name is sensitive, obtain 201 number from 201 Control Desk and complete Section I and Section III. On a separate form, enter the 201 number and complete Section II and Section III. Submit each form separately.
SECTION III: To be completed in all cases.

## SECTION I

SENSITIVE
X NONSENSITIVE
201 NO. 1. 18446
SOURCE DOCUMENT

NAME (Last) (First) (Middle) (Title): ISAACS, Harold Robert
SEX 3.: M

NAME VARIANT
TYPE NAME 2. (Last) (First) (Middle) (Title)

RECORD COPY

PHOTO 4.: YES | X NO
BIRTH DATE 5.: D | M | Y 10
COUNTRY OF BIRTH 6.
CITY OR TOWN OF BIRTH 7.
OTHER IDENTIFICATION 8.: 1. | 2. | 3.

OCCUPATION/POSITION: Correspondent of Newsweek magazine in China (1945)
OCC/POS. CODE 9.: NEWS

## SECTION II

CRYPTONYM
PSEUDONYM

## SECTION III

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE 10.: CHIN ~~(1945)~~
ACTION DESK 11.: FE/2/CE
SECOND COUNTRY INTEREST 12.
THIRD COUNTRY INTEREST 12a.

COMMENTS:

PUNCHED

201- 18446

PERMANENT CHARGE: X YES | NO
RESTRICTED FILE: X YES | NO
SIGNATURE: Shirley D. Gundlach

Form No. 831 1 Oct. 56 Use previous edition.

SECRET
CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

(38)

14-00000

ISAACS, Harold Robert | Westerners connected with the Far East | [illegible] | [illegible]
√ – ISAAC, Harold | 201-18446 | 201-18446 | 8 July 1948

American war correspondent for Newsweek; arrived in New Delhi en route to China after [illegible] months vacation in USA, on [illegible] Army orders to return to [illegible] theatre; applied to [illegible] in China for permission to return to Chungking but was refused by Chungking government. [illegible] correspondent and news editor of New York Post also refused two weeks previously. In USA ISAACS wrote articles calling [illegible] government "govt in exile." Apparently new policy of blacklisting foreign journalists who write unfavorably to CHIANG govt.

_____ jg

See also dossier: A [illegible] L. [illegible], memo to Col. [illegible] and [illegible];
dossier [illegible] - [illegible], [illegible]-430 (now in [illegible] dossier).

_____

Moscow agent; USA; Jewish; arrived in Shanghai Dec 1930, worked for Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, later for China Press (qv); as journalist often visited communist districts of China, actually as Communist agent (with Cecil [illegible], qv); active member of [illegible] (sic) Defense Committee; in close contact with Agnes S[illegible], other Soviet representatives; later married Lucy [illegible] (qv). See dossier: [illegible] in China (1). | [illegible]-1020 London 16 Dec 1948 [illegible]

_____ rfh

US citizen; born 1910; came to Shanghai from Manila Dec 1930, joined Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury; few weeks later, worked for China Press, till May 1931 traveled up Yangtze with Frank GLASS, lived with him; Sept 1931 friendly with [illegible] and Agnes [illegible]; became editor of China Forum and worked with GLASS; | [illegible]-633 Shanghai 8 Oct 1947 O-3

over

2. ISAACS, Harold Robert (continued)

1932 married Viola [illegible], reported active member of [illegible]; also reported to have married Lucy [illegible] in [illegible] (probably confusion of names in reports).

_____ fh

Classed as suspected comintern agent. See SMP Files, [illegible]-301-23, rpt of 20 May 1933

_____ wws

Has been in this country since 1937. Now (Feb 49) Special Features editor for Newsweek magazine. After communist phase in 20's and early 30's wrote a bitter and brilliant critique of Moscow direction of the Chinese Communist Party from 1926-28 (The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution, London, 1938) from a Trotskyite viewpoint. Now claims to be completely disillusioned with the communist movement (Stalin or Trotsky branch). Lives in New York with wife and two children. wws

_____ wws

Carried on SMP suspect list of foreign agents; see [illegible]-1811 in dossier: S.M.P. [illegible] [illegible]; see also [illegible]-766, same dossier, for details.

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For connection with Hilaire NOULENS, wws, and the III rd International, Agnes SMEDLEY, et al, see following files: [illegible] — [illegible]
[illegible] — D.2527/34 and D.2527/40

_____

See memo to FBI, prepared 25 August 49, subj.: Cecil Frank GLASS, wws, in dossier: FBI CORRESPONDENCE — Cecil Frank GLASS.

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In response to State Dept. name check, see memo to State and copy to FBI, prepared [illegible] Nov 49, in file CORRESPONDENCE with DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (continued)

3 ISAACS, Harold Robert (continued) WESTERNERS CONNECTED WITH THE FAR EAST

See DB-6962, dated 15 December 1947 in Dossier: MISCELLANEOUS-OUTGOING.

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See SO DB-24928, 31 May 1950, in Doss.: THIRD (COMMUNIST) INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL.

_____ bde

See UFB-7964, FBI investigative report, 28 Feb. 1951 (IID).

_____ bde

A Leading Trotskyite in Shanghai area in 1932 Doc in Reg. | DFB 10004 10 July 51 301-6783-1

_____ bde

Mentioned as having publicly broken with Communist backing of the "Voice of China" publication and having denounced [illegible] backing. [illegible] As former editor of Shanghai newspaper in article for the Christian Science Monitor. | DCT 4388 From Contacts Division; 7 Feb. 52 Doc in Reg.

_____ dr

Subject alleged to have been expelled from China in 1943 for attacking Nationalist Govt, and to have been an active propagandist for the Viet Minh Movement in Indochina. Alleged to have been on membership list of Viet Nam-American Friendship Association. Text of article by subject attacking French rule in Indochina set forth. Subject advised that he was acquainted with Walter DURANTY, "New York Times" correspondent in Moscow during early 1930s. List of persons and organizations corresponding with subject set forth. See ref. doc. in RI. | DFB-20343 14 Aug. 1952

_____ rdb

(over)

4. ISAACS, Harold Robert (cont'd)

Author of "The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution" whom Morris L. APPELMAN (qv) met through Alex TUCKMAN (qv) in Shanghai. Believed to be foreign correspondent for "News Week". First editor of CCP paper of which APPELMAN later was to become editor. See ref. doc. in RI. | DFB-14747 8 Jan. 1952

_____ boj

Patrick J. HURLEY advised that subject told him that John King FAIRBANKS (qv) is a Trotzkyite Communist. See ref. doc. in RI-201-19078. | DFB-21896 20 Oct. 1952

_____ rdb

Subject's book, "No Peace for Asia", published 1947, summarized. See ref. doc. in RI 201-18446-2. | DFB-22751 26 Nov. 1952

_____ boj

See DFB-24411, 11 Feb. 1953, subject: Ida TREAT (qv) (RI 201-6205-7).

_____ boj

"New Cycle in Asia" by subject published in 1947 by the Institute of Pacific Relations as a collection of the official texts of various treaties & agreements among South Asian and western powers during the period of World War II and later. Subj. supplies a brief editorial introduction to these texts which is apparently non-political in nature. His article "Korea & American World Policy" appears in the Aug. 7, 1950 issue of "New Republic". See doc. in (RI). | DFB-25069 12 March 53

_____ lms

5. ISAACS, Harold Robert (continued) WESTERNERS CONNECTED WITH THE FAR EAST

Editor of New Cycle in Asia; selected documents on major international developments in the Far East, 1943-1947. (1947). In dossier: CHINA BIBLIOGRAPHY-1947 List.

_____ wc

Author of No peace for Asia (1947). In dossier: CHINA BIBLIOGRAPHY-1947 List.

_____ wc

Author of The Tragedy of the Chinese revolution. Rev. ed. In dossier: CHINA BIBLIOGRAPHY-1951 List.

_____ wc

"Five Years of Kuomintang Reaction", a 136 page pamphlet published in 1932 at Shanghai, lists subject as editor. The pamphlet consists of reprints of articles which appeared in the "China Forum" by "anonymous authors and collaborators". The pamphlet denounces the Kuomintang and CHIANG Kai-shek for alleged massacre of its political opponents, chiefly Communists, in order "that the bourgeoisie might continue to rule and the imperialists to draw their tribute from the capitalization of human misery". Subject continues to reside at 333 Central Park West, NY, and is employed as a free lance journalist. See ref. doc. (RI). | DFB-[illegible] 12 June 53

_____ lms

Subject's book "The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution", first published 1938 in Great Britain, issued in a revised edition 1951 by Stanford Univ. Press. Thesis of book is that revolution in China, 1925-1927, could have resulted in a democratic socialist state, but was perverted to serve the needs of Russian diplomacy. In revised edition subject stated his opinions have changed in intervening [illegible] and that the base of his book can be described as "democratic socialist. see doc. in (RI 201-18446-5). | DFB-29131 21 Aug 53

6. ISAACS, Harold Robert

Subj is a writer and former Trotskyite. Stated that LIU, Tsun-ch'i (0491/1135/2759) was a Communist as early as 1933 in Peking, China and had worked for Tass New Agency in Peking after graduating from college and had even been sent to jail because of his communist activities.

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An article by ISAACS "The Dimensions of the Crisis" in the "Saturday Review", 4 August 1951, states, "The Asian crisis is not created by Russian totalitarianism, but is exploited by it" and makes the point that revolt of colonial peoples in Asia is essentially nationalistic, that the U.S. should "move along with" and help guide these revolutions into democratic channels. His article "The Blind Alley of Totalitarianism" in "Annals of the American Academy", July 1951, states that past activities of the Western nations in Orient bred fear and hatred, were mainly responsible for rise of totalitarianism. In the "Saturday Review of Literature" of 16 July 1952, ISAACS reviewed "Journey to the Far Pacific" by Gov. Thomas E. DEWEY. Criticized book for superficiality and for recommending only military solutions to problems of Orient. See DFB-30060 dated 2 November 1953 in RI (201-18446).

Subject presently resides at 92 Varick Road, Waban, Mass., and is employed as a full time Research Associate in the Center for International Studies, Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. Subj. does not have access to any classified information. | DFB-[illegible] 6 Apr 54 201-18446

_____ jal

201-0018446